

# GM598 Testimony

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
RICHARD HA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor



**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**KEN H. KAKESAKO**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014  
2:50 P.M.  
ROOM 229**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 598  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF  
AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RICHARD HA, FOR A TERM TO  
EXPIRE 6-30-2018**

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 598 for the consideration and confirmation of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) strongly supports Mr. Ha's nomination and reconfirmation to the Board of Agriculture.

Richard comes from three generations of farmers and has an extensive local agricultural background. Richard is the founder and president of Hamakua Springs Country Farms, a 35 year old diversified agriculture operation consisting of 600 acres and employing 70 workers. As president of Hamakua Farms, Richard has a wealth of knowledge about the agriculture industry in Hawaii and the challenges and opportunities the industry faces.

Richard is also an active participant in the local community. He is the founding member and president of the Big Island Community Coalition, member of the Hawaii Clean Energy Steering Committee, board member of the Kohala Center and co-chair of



the geothermal working group. As a current member of the Board of Agriculture, Richard is a vital contributor to Board deliberations, bringing a farmer's perspective to all discussions.

Based on Richard's extensive local agricultural experience, community involvement, and solid track record as a current Board member, the HDOA strongly supports the consideration and reconfirmation of Richard to the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI  
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES NAKATANI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE

Thursday, March 27, 2014  
2:50 pm  
Conference Room 229

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 598  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF  
AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RICHARD HA,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2018

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) is in strong support for the consideration and confirmation of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture. Richard has a solid background in agriculture and community relations.

Richard is founder and president of Hamakua Springs Country Farms a six hundred acre fee simple banana and hydroponic tomato farm. Richard understands beginning farming and the importance of protecting Hawaii's Food security. His farm is operated by 70 workers together with 5 family members, this growth did not occur overnight nor has it been easy. He watched as his banana operation was decimated by bunchy top virus despite using all available tools.

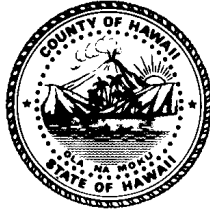
Richard is a positive member of his community and a true agVocate, he understands all levels of agriculture and how important it is for Hawaii's future generation to be sustainable. He is a current and active Board member for the following Boards; Kohala Center, Hawaii Island Economic Development Board, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative steering committee, Chair-Big Island Community Coalition and a Founding member of Hawaii Farmers & Ranchers United.

Richard will continue to bring to the Board of Agriculture valuable leadership, and business experience. He is an accomplished professional who will be a great asset to the board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**William P. Kenoi**  
*Mayor*



**Walter K.M. Lau**  
*Managing Director*

**Randall M. Kurohara**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

## County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg. C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 27, 2014

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 229  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha, Chair Nishihara and Committee Members:

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer our strong support for the reappointment of Richard Ha to the state Board of Agriculture.

Richard has successfully served on the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture, promoting and protecting Hawai'i's agriculture and the people of Hawai'i. With 35 years of farming experience, his understanding of the industry and the small farmer – the rubbah slippa folks, as he calls them makes him a strong representative on the Board.

He also has deep roots in Hawai'i Island and a strong sense of service. He participates on the Boards of the Kohala Center, Hawai'i Island Economic Develop Board, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative, and Big Island Community Coalition and is a founding member of the Hawai'i Farmers and Ranchers United.

As a farmer and community leader, Richard understands the demands and needs of both the agricultural community and the Hawai'i Island community. We are proud and grateful for his service to his community and on the Board of Agriculture, and strongly support his reappointment to this Board.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

**William P. Kenoi**  
MAYOR



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 27, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON GM 598  
Confirmation of the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee RICHARD HA

Room 229  
2:50 PM

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,832 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**Hawaii Farm Bureau stands in strong support Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Richard Ha to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.**

Richard Ha is one of the most respected and innovative agricultural leaders in the state. His widely shared opinions on peak oil, alternative energy solutions and profitable (read sustainable) farming are above reproach. He's just a smart, selfless, innovative, progressive and experienced farmer who understands, respects and knows how to interpret science and technology.

Mr. Ha has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's diverse agricultural industries. He is a proven asset to the State of Hawaii Board of Agriculture. He has been an active member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation for 22 years.

Richard has 35 years of experience farming in various conditions in Hawaii. As the founder and President of Hamakua Springs Country Farms, a 600 acre diversified agricultural operation, Mr. Ha's experience enables him to provide vital input to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture. His operation is food safety certified. Richard implemented an innovative hydroponic system into his tomato operation. He embraces new technologies like hydroelectric power and unmanned aerial vehicles to monitor his banana crop.

We can think of no better candidate.

**Thank you for confirming Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Richard Ha to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.**





## Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

P O Box 437199 Kamuela HI 96743  
Phone (808) 885-5599 • Fax (808) 887-1607  
e-mail: [HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Thursday March 27 , 2014 2:50 p.m. Room 229

### **GM 598 RICHARD HA NOMINATION**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
RICHARD HA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am a rancher and the Government Affairs Chairperson of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports** GM 598, the nomination for Richard Ha for the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Richard Ha is a person of impeccable integrity. He is well thought of and respected by members of the agricultural community in the State of Hawaii. Richard has been a leader in Hawaii Agriculture and has farmed for over 35 years. **And who doesn't know Richard's famous quote "If the famer makes money, the famer will farm".**

He is a current and active Board member for the following Boards; The Hawaii Board of Agriculture Kohala Center, Hawaii Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB), Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) steering committee, Chair- Big Island Community Coalition and a Founding member of Hawaii Farmers & Ranchers United (HFRU).

On a personal note, I served on the State Board of Agriculture for two years with Richard and ALWAYS found him to be an advocate for Hawaii farmers and ranchers, especially for the small farmer.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to testify in strong support of the nomination for Richard Ha.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [randy@kauaichamber.org](mailto:randy@kauaichamber.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 3:38:26 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randall Francisco	Kauai Chamber of Commerce	Support	No

Comments: IN support of Richard Ha

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Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

My name is Jason Moniz, and I am the president of the Hamakua County Farm Bureau. Hamakua County Farm Bureau represents a wide variety of farmers and ranchers utilizing conventional, organic and genetic technology to contribute to Hawaii's food security.

The Hamakua County Farm Bureau is proud to support Hamakua farmer and community leader Mr. Richard Ha for reappointment to the Board of Agriculture. Richard is a beacon of light for agriculture in Hawaii. His advocacy and leadership for affordable alternate energy and scientific research cannot be overlooked either. Richard has achieved experience in agriculture in Hawaii that has been achieved by very few. His experience, knowledge and judgment are invaluable to the future of agriculture in Hawaii.

Hamakua County Farm Bureau applauds Richard Ha's willingness to serve for the benefit of our State and its citizens. Please reappoint Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture.

**From:** [David Ruf](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#); [All Senators](#)  
**Subject:** Support for the Nomination of Richard Ha  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 2:32:36 PM

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Aloha,

I am writing to express my strongest possible support for Richard Ha's candidacy for the State Board of Agriculture. As the CEO of a Hawaii Island based company focused on creating economic growth in agriculture communities I have found that Richard is one of a very small handful of people who are truly working to help farmers build the capacity to support this State's critical food sustainability issues. We regularly seek out Richard when we are looking to identify practical, people focused approaches that both help farmers and provide the wide range of foods that the people of the State are looking for. Whether all natural organic for consumers with the means to afford the niche produce, or bulk produce for the less fortunate, Richard understands how to create the systems that are needed to grow the foods.

I deeply respect Richard's commitment to supporting the farm workers, and the small farmers who often get overlooked in the discussions about the future of agriculture. More than a few times we have found ourselves completely re-thinking an approach as a result of Richards straightforward advice. I cannot think of a single person who adds more to the unbiased and people-first discussions of agriculture. We are fortunate that a man who has already given so much of his time to help and defend others is willing to continue to give of himself.

If I can provide any additional information, or to add any additional rationale for my unconditional support, please do not hesitate to contact me.

David Ruf

CEO

Rivertop Solutions LLC

808-333-5450

—

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [HawaiisAgriculturalPartnerships@msn.com](mailto:HawaiisAgriculturalPartnerships@msn.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 4:04:44 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hawaii's Agricultural Partnerships	4 Ag Hawaii ~ non profit 501 [c] [3]	Support	No

Comments: We have worked with Richard for over 2 decades. He is first and foremost an honorable man with the highest integrity & character. His dedication and passion for agriculture in Hawaii is unmatched and has worked for decades to promote family farming in Hawaii in all areas with his current focus on food security and energy. We strongly urge his confirmation for the good of Hawaii agriculture as a whole.

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RANCHO ALOHA, PO BOX 417, HOLUALOA, HAWAII 96725  
808-322-9562

March 24, 2014

Dear Senate Agriculture Committee Members:

I am a coffee and avocado farmer in Hawaii County and I oppose the re-appointment of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Ha has made contributions to the Big Island community, but it is time to place a voice on the Board of Agriculture that supports the small-scale family farm agriculture that represents the future of Hawaii agriculture—not a voice for multi-national corporate agribusiness.

It is time for a change. Please let us have a new face representing the Hawaii County on the Board of Agriculture.

Please oppose this appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Corker  
Holualoa, Hawaii County

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [hfia@hawaiiiforest.org](mailto:hfia@hawaiiiforest.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 6:14:36 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Heather Simmons	Hawaii Forest Industry Association	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii Forest Industry Association supports Richard Ha's nomination to the Board of Agriculture. We are Hawaii's forest industry trade association representing 260 members statewide. Mahalo, Heather Siimmons, HFIA Executive Director

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [john@metzlercontracting.com](mailto:john@metzlercontracting.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 6:21:07 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John F. Metzler	Mahukona Ranch	Support	No

Comments: We support the nomination and appointment of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture. He knows the issues that impact farmers and has seen them from a perspective of business and environment. Thank you for your support.

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**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [pono@ponoholo.com](mailto:pono@ponoholo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 7:49:26 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Harry von Holt	Ponoholo Ranch, Ltd	Support	No

Comments: We support the Governor's nominee Richard Ha for appointment to the Board of Agriculture. Richard is a great advocate for local agriculture.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kaimiunger@gmail.com](mailto:kaimiunger@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7:59:20 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keith	McCandless Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

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Honorable Senator Clarence K Nishihara  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Room 204

25 March 2014

Dear Senator Nishihara,

I am writing to **support** the re-appointment of **Richard Ha** to the Department of Agriculture Board. Richard Ha is a tireless advocate of agriculture both small and large, with a pragmatic vision arising from his own 600 acre farming operation in Hamakua.

There are precious few people who bring together the connections between agriculture, energy and sustainable food production as Richard does. With a fragmented land base, high energy costs and relative isolation, Hawaii faces unique agricultural challenges not faced by our continental counterparts. Who best to understand these, with a view toward pragmatism than a farmer who has combined these aspects into his own operations? His adoption of science-based agriculture is refreshing in an age of anecdote and fad.

As a forester, farmer of trees, I appreciate people like Richard, who take an interest in promoting agriculture of all kinds throughout the state. Foresters and farmers alike are often not heard in the increasingly contentious agriculture debates as we are busy working in the field. It is therefore essential that we support pragmatic, community oriented farmers like Richard whenever possible.

Please re-appoint Richard Ha to the Department of Agriculture Board.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Nishihara".

General Manager

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jmorgan@kualoa.com](mailto:jmorgan@kualoa.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:58:31 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Morgan	Kualoa Ranch	Support	No

Comments: Aloha mai kakou, We are in strong support of Richard Ha's nomination to the Board of Agriculture. He is an exemplary representative of the kind of farmer we need in Hawaii, and voice on the Board of Agriculture. Mahalo for you positive vote for Richard Ha. john Morgan

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**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Richard Ha's nomination to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:59:20 AM

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**From:** Lynn Richardson [mailto:lynn.olaa@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:56 AM  
**To:** Sen. Clarence Nishihara; Sen. Ronald D. Kouchi; Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz; Sen. J. Kalani English; Sen. Laura Thielen; Sen. Glenn Wakai; Sen. Sam Slom  
**Subject:** Fwd: Richard Ha's nomination to the Board of Agriculture

Ag Board Nominating Committee,

Aloha,

I am strongly in support of Richard Ha's nomination to the Board of Agriculture. His experience and concern for the health of Hawaii's farms is well known in the farming community.

I have been growing bananas on the Big Island for 37 years. Currently, I have over 30 acres in production and will eventually hand the business over to my son/partner.

There is a vocal minority here that is opposed to Mr. Ha's nomination. They have erroneously labeled him as a pro GMO/Monsanto supporter. Most of the farming community, supports the science behind GMOs and believes that there is a place for it in our farming "toolbox".

There are no genetically modified banana cultivars as of now. But we may need one to combat the Banana Bunchy Top Virus in the future.

Thank you,

Lynn Paul Richardson  
*Ola'a Banana Co.*  
*200 Kanoelehua Ave.*  
*PMB 215*  
*Hilo, Hawaii 96720*

--

Lynn Paul Richardson  
*200 Kanoelehua Ave.*  
*PMB 215*  
*Hilo, Hawaii 96720*



## **Hawaii Agriculture Research Center**

*Administration: P.O. Box 100, Kunia, HI 96759*

*Ph: 808-621-1350/Fax: 808-621-1359*

### **TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**GM 598**

**Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
Richard Ha**

**March 27, 2014**

Chairman Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center and our research and support staff.

HARC strongly supports the Confirmation of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Richard is a strong supporter of the entire agriculture community focusing on the success of the small agricultural entrepreneur. Agriculture represents a very broad spectrum of producer businesses as well as its necessary support infrastructure. It is about cooperating for the success of the entire production system; it is not about picking winners and/or losers. Agriculture is about plants to products; about research to restaurants; about farm to fork! It is about an abundance of diversity in jobs, careers and life styles.

All those engage in agriculture have shared challenges and shared responsibilities to resolve these challenges! Land/water/labor/financing/market availability face all of agriculture. There are also challenges in transportation, the environment, research needs and last but not least public awareness and communications. These challenges include less resources, a changing structure of the industry, increasing regulations, more crops to support, quarantine issues, invasive species, the list is endless. Richard is fully aware and engaged in meeting these challenges. There could be no better candidate for this position.

There is no doubt that Richard Ha will be able to contribute greatly to the vision to improve agriculture's contribution to the state's economy as well as to help in maintaining the beauty of its landscapes through productive agriculture operations. Richard lives and breaths agriculture and will support the entire agricultural sector to enable opportunities for its many facets to grow into a viable industry within the state.

DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI  
Council Member  
District 3



PHONE: (808) 961-8396  
FAX: (808) 961-8912  
EMAIL: [donishi@co.hawaii.hi.us](mailto:donishi@co.hawaii.hi.us)

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

March 25, 2014

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture

Dear Senator Nishihara,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Mr. Richard Ha's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

Richard is deeply involved in the goal of ensuring a sustainable future for Hawai'i. He looks for ways to provide food for the people of our State. In 2013, his Hāmākua Springs Country Farms became a leader in sustainable farming with the completion of a hydroelectric project. The farm made a strategic investment to generate more than enough energy to power all its operations.

Hāmākua Springs is a 600-acre farm north of Hilo that grows tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers and bananas. As founder and president of the family-owned company, he is working on a local level to control rising energy costs and to ensure food security and amid climate change, new plant pests and diseases.

As he said in a blog post dated February 17, 2014, his vision of the future involves all farmers – hydroponic, organic, conventional, big and small – working together to meet these challenges by producing more food for Hawai'i:

“We farmers have to help each other get all of our costs down. It’s what will keep us in farming. And it will improve the Big Island’s food security and move us further toward our goal of increased food self-sufficiency.”

Richard is a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He holds a degree in accounting from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and he has been working in agriculture for more than 40 years.

The State of Hawai‘i will continue to benefit from his knowledge and his vision. He has represented the farmers of Hawai‘i Island since 2010 on the Board of Agriculture, and I am hopeful you will recommend his reappointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Onishi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and "O".

Dennis “Fresh” Onishi  
Hawai‘i County Council Member



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [frederick.j.perlak@monsanto.com](mailto:frederick.j.perlak@monsanto.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:27:52 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Fred Perlak	Monsanto Company	Support	No

Comments: Richard Ha, a farmer of 35 years of experience is an excellent choice for the Board of Ag. His experience and integrity as a supporter of all forms of Agriculture are what the Board needs to chart Hawaii's future. He knows the difficulties and challenges of farming in Hawaii and he has the ability to serve the state well.

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# Indigenous Consultants, LLC

**Mililani B. Trask, Principal**

P.O.Box 6377 ❖ Hilo, HI 96720

[Mililani.trask@gmail.com](mailto:Mililani.trask@gmail.com)



## Testimony in Support – Confirmation of Richard Ha

Hearing Date: Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Committee: Agriculture

Time: 2:50pm

Room: CR 229

Aloha Senators,

I am submitting this testimony in SUPPORT of the nomination of Mr. Richard Ha to the State Board of Agriculture. Mr. Ha is widely known on Hawaii Island & throughout our State as an advocate for farmers, a supporter of agriculture and Food Security and the man who always remembers the “rubba slippa guys”, Richard’s way of referring to the elderly, poor & needy in our community.

Mr. Ha is exceptionally qualified for this position. He has been a farmer for over 35 years and has farmed all over Hawaii Island: in Waiakea Uka, Kapoho, Kea’au and Pepeekeo. Consequently he knows the challenges farmers face in numerous terrains with various climate & precipitation conditions. Richard Ha gained his experience hands-on, by planting, harvesting & marketing his organic food crops.

Richard Ha is a recipient of the coveted Madden Award bestowed by S.A.R.E. (Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education ) to persons who are either farmers and ranchers who raise food in ways that are profitable, good for families and communities, and beneficial to the environment. The Madden Award recognizes producers who 1) have conducted innovative research that explores ways to make farming more profitable, environmentally sound and good for communities and/or 2) who have served as effective educators about sustainable agriculture practices and systems with their peers or others in the community. The qualifications for awardees fit Richard Ha to the T. Richard operated his own tissue culture lab to enhance his farming operations and started out by trading chicken manure for banana huli. Later he would purchase 600 acres in Pepeekeo, Hawaii where he grew bananas. Richard Ha created the first banana farm in the world to be “certified GREEN”.

Today Richard Ha owns, operates & is the President of Hamakua Springs Country Farms on 600 acres on Hawaii Island. It is a hydroponic tomato operation that is Food Safety certified. Richard is recognized an ‘innovator’ in agriculture. He operates a 100 KW generator on his farm, driven by hydro power from his irrigation system & uses

unmanned robotic vehicles to monitor his banana crop! Richards farm employs 70 people as well as 5 of his own family members.

Richard Ha is also involved in broader community issues. He has served as Board member on the State Board of Agriculture, The Kohala Center, The HIEDB (The Hawaii Island Economic Development Board) and The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Richard is also on The Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) steering committee. He is currently the Chair of the Big Island Community Coalition, and is a founding member of HFRU (Hawaii Farmers & Ranchers United). He served as the Co-Chair of the Hawaii Island Geothermal Working Group, a body created by the State legislature to study & report back the issue of geothermal development on Hawaii Island.

#### SHAME ON SENATOR RUSSEL RUDERMAN

Last week, when Richard Ha's hearing notice was posted, Senator Russel Ruderman sent out libelous emails urging the public, members of the Puna Pono Alliance & others to oppose Mr. Ha's appointment because of his support for geothermal energy and Farmers Rights. Ruderman has a personal vendetta against Mr. Ha because he has dared to stand up to Ruderman in the State legislature on controversial issues. Ruderman's email was a cheap shot against a man who has the same right we all have to disagree with powerful politicians serving their own interests.

Senators, don't be misled by Rudermans effort to black ball Mr. Ha, instead read the attached article published in the Hilo Tribune Herald about the complaint filed against Senator Ruderman to the State Board of Ethics for supporting special interests & engaging in "direct lobbying" posted on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2014.

Please support this nomination,

Regards,




Mililani B. Trask – Indigenous Consultants LLC

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Your Views for March 16

Your Views for March 19

Posted March 18, 2014 - 1:04am

# Your Views for March 18

## Buying a Water Ionizer?

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Ruderman and ethics

This is a response to state Sen. Russel Ruderman's letter to the editor on March 15 (Tribune-Herald).

Sen. Ruderman is misleading his constituents by claiming that SB2274 is about "sustainability." Embedded within this bill is the potential for construction, roads, commercial wind and geothermal alternative power plants, parking lots, buildings, and much more, all under a very vague "research" category within agriculture-classified lands.

Ruderman failed to mention that he accepted this proposed legislation from a nonprofit organization, who was strong supporters of his election campaign, even appearing in his campaign brochure.

This tax-exempt entity has been at odds with their neighbors for years. They want to expand their nonprofit operations near the pristine Kehena beach area. The majority of the community was opposed to such development. This nonprofit group applied for a special use permit for future activities that would require more infrastructure than they presently have such as roads, buildings and parking lots. They realized they were never going to obtain a county special use permit so they drafted this legislation with attorneys to side step the variance process and deny their neighbors a right to object, all in the name of research. They couldn't get their special use permit so Sen. Ruderman gave them a special rewards package, SB2274.

Our complaint to the state board of ethics was filed to bring attention to this dangerous alliance within our community. SB2274 will potentially deny the community the right to object to commercial/nonprofit development and it was authored by a nonprofit that stands to financially gain from its passage.

Accepting and introducing legislation written by a 501(c)(3) that stands to benefit is called "direct lobbying." There are federal laws strictly prohibiting these kind of specific activities. Politicians need to know when they are being lobbied and by whom.

Isn't it the job and responsibility of a senator to listen to his entire contingency, instead of just his good friends, and not pass legislation for their benefit but for the benefit of all?

**RJ Hampton & Sativa Sultan**

Puna

Your Views for March 16

Your Views for March 19

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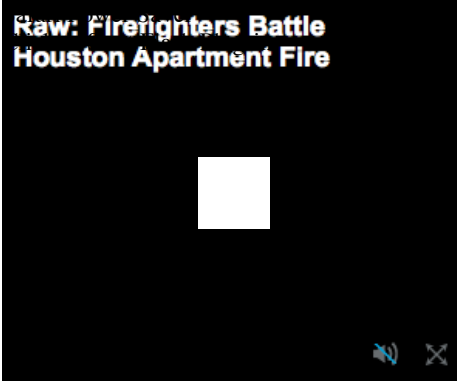
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**From:** [Peter Merriman](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Mr. Richard Ha Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:31:44 PM

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Chairman Nishihara,

I strongly support the reappointment of Mr. Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture.

I have had the honor of knowing Richard for over 20 years. I have also worked closely with him in the partnership between Merriman's Restaurants and Hamakua Farms.

His 35 years in farming equips him with a wealth of knowledge and respect for the agriculture of Hawaii.

The fact that Richard is first banana farm in the world to be certified Eco OK demonstrates his concern for Hawaii's environment. Added to that is his top six in the country consideration for the Patrick Madden, Sustainable Ag Research and Education (SARE) award as further testimony to his ecological commitment.

He is one of the best farmers in the state of Hawaii. Hawaii is fortunate to have farmers of his caliber, and even more fortunate that they are willing to serve on a board that can help the entire state.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Please let me know if this letter can be considered testimony.

Sincerely,

Peter Merriman

President of Merriman's Restaurants

Chairman of Monkeypod Kitchen by Merriman

One Bay Club Place

Lahaina, HI 96761

Peter Merriman

Merriman's Restaurants

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# Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Seventh Legislature, 2014  
State of Hawaii

**Thursday, March 27, 2014 2:50PM**  
**Conference Room 229**  
**State Capitol**  
**415 South Beretania Street**

## **COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of  
Agriculture, gubernatorial nominee, RICHARD HA

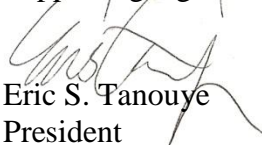
My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

We believe that Richard Ha has the necessary insights into the problems of agriculture and is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He is not afraid to speak out on what is right to better shape the future of agriculture and the State of Hawaii.

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man who seeks to understand the problem and the solutions. He would serve the Board of Agriculture well being a representative of farming, agriculture and the community.

We urge you to **SUPPORT** the nomination of Richard Ha. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email [eric@greenpointnursery.com](mailto:eric@greenpointnursery.com).

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye  
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [john@olsontrust.com](mailto:john@olsontrust.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 4:34:38 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John C. Cross	Edmund C. Olson Trust II	Support	No

Comments: I have known Richard Ha for over thirty years and you cannot find a more fitting person for this position on the Ag Board. I along with Mr. Edmund C. Olson and his Trust subsidiaries Strongly support Mr. Ha's nomination.

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**Kapoho Land Partnership**  
A Hawaii Limited Partnership  
**Kapoho Management Company, Inc.**  
General Partner  
P. O. Box 374  
Hilo, Hawaii 96721-0374  
(808) 935-5810

March 25, 2015

Members of the Hawaii State Senate  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture

Subject: Governor's Message 598, Gubernatorial Nominee Richard Ha, for confirmation to the Board of Agriculture for a term that expires June 30, 2018.

Aloha Honorable Senators:

I am Lono Lyman, and I manage the Lyman family land holdings in Kapoho, Puna District, Island of Hawaii.

My family has farmed in Puna since the late-1800s. Today, we have about a dozen agricultural tenants who are hard working families, putting food on our tables.

Richard Ha's origin as a farmer began in Puna. After serving in the Army as a Captain in Viet Nam, he got an accounting degree from the University of Hawaii. Then he began farming. Through hard work and perseverance, he has established himself as a successful farmer, now based on the Hamakua coast. Five family members and 70 employees operate his 600-acre Hamakua Springs Country Farm.

He is a supporter of all farmers in Hawaii, and his continued service on the Board of Agriculture will significantly benefit not only Hawaii's farmers, but also all residents of Hawaii.

I ask that you vote to confirm him, as a vote for Richard Ha's confirmation is a vote to support all agriculture in Hawaii and a vote to support Hawaii's hardworking farm families.

Mahalo a nui loa,

*A Lono Lyman*

Lono Lyman, President Kapoho Management Company, Inc.  
Manager Kapoho Land Partnership

The Senate  
Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
Committee on Agriculture  
March 27, 2014, 2:50 p.m.  
Room 229

Statement of the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters on GM 598, the  
Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture of Nominee Richard Ha

The Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters is fortunate to have become acquainted with Richard Ha, and is able to strongly support his confirmation to the Board of Agriculture.

First and foremost, Mr. Ha is a farmer. He is a successful local farmer in the place where he grew up, utilizing both greenhouse and conventional cultivation, and innovations such as hydro power to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuel. He is familiar with conditions farmers face beyond cultivation and harvesting, such as storage, transport, marketing, product appeal, etc.

His knowledge and real world experience is what is needed to support sustainable agriculture to increase Hawaii's food self-sufficiency. Mr. Ha is also analytic and open to new ideas, and is able to articulate his thoughts in his own, perhaps Hawaiian, way.

He has also demonstrated his commitment to community affairs, spending hours of his time for the future generations of Hawaii. Having become involved in shaping community benefits from the Thirty Meter Telescope on Hawaii island, he stated his belief that all parties, agreeing or disagreeing, should take the time and effort to talk to each other, civilly and with open minds. He lived by and practiced that belief.

Mr. Ha knows what practicing farmers need to be on the land and persist. He will greatly contribute to the Board of Agriculture's, and the Department of Agriculture's work of addressing those needs.

Thank you for considering our statement in support of the confirmation of nominee Richard Ha.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rangien2010@yahoo.com](mailto:rangien2010@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7:42:07 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Puanani Rogers	Ho`okipa Network - Kauai	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose the nomination of Richard Ha to this appointment. He is an enemy of the `aina because he supports bio-tech chemical industries i.e. Syngenta, Monsanto, Pioneer, et al. What is his expertise in Agriculture anyway? Vote no!

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**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tom.menezes@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:tom.menezes@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:53:04 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Thomas Menezes	Hawaii Pineapple Company LLC	Support	No

Comments: We support Richard Ha's nomination to the board as he has been an active voice to help long time local farmers keep farming in Hawaii.

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March 27, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
TESTIMONY ON **GM598**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD HA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018. Room 312  
9:40 AM

Aloha Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

Maui County Farm Bureau on behalf of our commercial farm and ranch families and organizations is in strong support of the nomination of Mr. Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture.

I personally met Richard for the first time during a farm tour in California. I saw how passionate he was of the industry and observed his constant search for innovations of how to improve our industry. It was not just about himself. It was how we could all improve. His personal experiences, e.g. with the banana and surviving the impacts of the bunchy top virus makes him even more valuable because he has experienced the difficulties our farmers endure and has found ways to overcome them. His leadership is needed on the Board.

We respectfully request your strong support of Mr. Ha to the Board of Agriculture. Thank you.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mark.phillipson@syngenta.com](mailto:mark.phillipson@syngenta.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:30:37 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Phillipson	Syngenta Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments: Dear Senators, There is no one involved in agriculture on a serious basis that does not support the nomination of Richard Ha to serve on the Board of Agriculture in this state. His resume and service to agriculture speak for itself. One could say his selection is a "no brainer" and they would be right. But actually if you look at his candidacy with the greatest of scutinty and make the most critical assessment using the strictest of standards - your choice would be the same. Richard Ha chosen to serve on the Board of Agriculture.

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ISLAND PRINCESS

March 25, 2014

Regarding: Confirmation of Richard Ha

Greetings Senators,

Please act to confirm the reappointment of Mr. Richard Ha to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture. He is an experienced and thoughtful member of our community and will continue to serve the state and agribusiness in a professional and reasonable fashion.

Thank you.

David Schell  
GM, Island Princess Macadamia Nut Company  
Kea'au.

16-261 Shipman Road, P.O. Box 340, Keaau HI 96749  
Phone(808)966-7451 Fax(808)966-8507

**From:** [Pete Adams](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** We Support Richard Ha for Agriculture Board  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 7:24:44 AM

---

Aloha,

My wife and I own a small plant nursery near Pahoa. In establishing our nursery we were attracted to the Big Island because of its far more extensive orientation to agriculture compared to the other islands. Over the course of a decade we have had many opportunities to read statements by Richard Ha regarding agriculture and energy sustainability in Hawai'i. Through his writing Mr. Ha has shown a deep understanding of agriculture and energy in Hawai'i and what sustainability really means in the modern world. His many activities in the community demonstrate his capability for constructive civic actions. Furthermore, Mr. Ha has shown great respect for science and its substantial role in all our futures. Having come from science and technology backgrounds ourselves, we feel that Mr. Ha's support for science will be a very important quality in determining the future of agriculture in Hawai'i.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Peter and Jane Adams

*Pete and Jane Adams*  
*White Cloud Nursery*  
*15-89 South Rd.*  
*P.O. Box 1387*  
*Pahoa, HI 96778*  
*(808) 345-3345*  
[www.whitecloudnursery.com](http://www.whitecloudnursery.com)





GM 598, Richard Ha  
For Hawaii Board of Agriculture  
Senate AGL Confirmation Hearing  
Thursday, March 27, 2014 – 2:50 pm  
Room 229

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs

Position: Support

Sen. Nishihara and Members of the Senate AGL Committee:

My name is Larry Jeffs, co-owner of Sugarland Growers, Inc., a family-run business with farms on Oahu and Molokai. I have been a farmer in Hawaii for more than 35 years and have been actively involved in organizations that support Hawaii's farmers.

I have known Richard Ha for more than 25 years. After graduating from the UH Manoa (1973), he returned to the Big Island to help with his Dad's chicken farm in Waiakea Uka. He began growing bananas and eventually evolved his banana farms to the Hamakua Springs County Farms, a three generation, family-run business. In addition to bananas, they produce tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers and watercress. Richard's focus is on researching and experimenting with new products, and concentrating on the farm's energy- and labor-efficient systems.

Richard Ha is professional in his interactions and very open to helping all farmers move forward. His community service includes serving on board of directors for organizations such as the Hawai'i Island Economic Development Board, Hamakua Soil and Water Conservation District, Hawai'i Banana Industry Association, Keaholoa STEM Program, and Boys and Girls Club of Hawai'i. He is director of The Kohala Center, represents the County of Hawai'i on the State of Hawai'i Board of Agriculture Executive Board, and co-chairs the Geothermal Working Group.

His farm experience and entrepreneurial spirit in developing agriculture systems are assets to the Board of Agriculture and Hawaii as we seek ways to increase Hawaii's agricultural community.

Your support of Richard Ha's appointment to the Board of Agriculture is strongly urged. I can be reached at 688-2892 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sugarland Growers Inc.  
P.O. Box 27, Kunia, Hawaii 96759  
Tel: (808) 688-2982 Fax: (808) 682-2894

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**THE HONORABLE CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR  
THE HONORABLE RONALD D. KOUCHI, VICE CHAIR**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 598: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD HA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.**

**Testimony in Strong Support**

**By Glenn K. Y. Hong  
President, Young Brothers, Limited  
and  
P. Roy Catalani  
Vice President, Young Brothers, Limited**

**March 27, 2014, 2:50 pm, Conference Room 229**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 598 submitting Governor Abercrombie's nomination of **Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture of the State of Hawai'i**. **We submit this testimony in strong support of Mr. Ha's nomination.**

Richard Ha is a recognized innovative farmer who is committed to advancing agricultural sustainability and quality. Three generations of his family comprise the farming enterprise Mauna Kea Banana Company, Inc., which does business as Hamakua Springs Country Farms (Hamakua Springs) on the Big Island. He and his family work on researching, developing, growing, and selling high quality bananas, as well as varieties of tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, and watercress. Their farming practices are shining examples of sustainability. For example, taking advantage of the Hamakua coast's heavy rainfall, Hamakua Springs has installed a 100-kilowatt hydroelectric generator on their farm and has undertaken hydroponic cultivation.

Through dialog with Young Brothers and with his fellow farmers on the Big Island, Mr. Ha has led efforts to promote safety and efficiency in handling and shipping refrigerated agricultural products. Using renewable hydroelectric power, he developed a cooperative process for Hamakua coast farmers to cool agricultural products in refrigerated warehouses at Hamakua Springs and to consolidate these products for shipping in refrigerated containers to O'ahu and other neighbor islands. Largely in consonance with Mr. Ha's efforts, Young Brothers now offers a 35 percent discount on containerized locally grown agricultural product shipments, helping mitigate neighbor island producers' costs of transport to market, while enabling farmers to take advantage of lower land, water, and other production costs, including availability of labor resources.

These accomplishments are but a few of Mr. Ha's life's work in the agricultural community. Young Brothers believes he can and will contribute further to the State of Hawai'i as a member of the Board of Agriculture, and, accordingly, strongly urges the Senate's advise and consent with respect to Mr. Ha's nomination.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on and support Governor's Message 598.



Testimony of Cindy McMillan  
The Pacific Resource Partnership

Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

GM 598 - Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD HA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018

Thursday, March 27, 2014  
2:50 P.M.  
Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

The Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a labor-management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters.

PRP supports Mr. Richard Ha's confirmation to the Board of Agriculture. Mr. Ha brings 35 years of farming experience to the table and has successfully represented Hawaii's agriculture on the Hawaii Department of Agriculture Board; this is his second term promoting and protecting Hawaii agriculture and the people of Hawaii.

As President of Hamakua Springs Country Farms, a 600-acre fee simple banana and hydroponic tomato farm, Mr. Ha understands farming and the importance of protecting Hawaii's Food security. His farm is operated by 70 workers together with 5 family members. He is a positive member of the community and a true advocate. He understands all levels of agriculture and how important it is for Hawaii's future generation to be sustainable.

Some of his priorities include:

- Food security—Agriculture and Energy is inextricably intertwined. Keeping production costs low is of vital importance to farmers and their customers;
- Small local farmers;
- Providing healthy, affordable food is important for Hawaii; and
- Planning for the future using scientific methods or self-adjusting for a solid foundation.

Furthermore, Mr. Ha is a current and active member for the following Boards:

- The Hawaii Board of Agriculture
- Kohala Center
- Hawaii Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB)
- Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) steering committee
- Big Island Community Coalition
- Hawaii Farmers & Ranchers United (HFRU)

Thank you for allowing us to share our views with you.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [sabrina@ponoholo.com](mailto:sabrina@ponoholo.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 10:45:31 AM

---

**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sabrina White	Ponoholo Ranch, Ltd.	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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March 26, 2014

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 598,  
REAPPOINTMENT/CONFIRMATION OF RICHARD HA TO  
THE HAWAII STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**CHAIRMAN NISHIHARA AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE:**

**On behalf of Armstrong Produce, I submit testimony in support of reappointing Richard Ha to the State Board of Agriculture. Armstrong's association with Mr. Ha spans nearly two decades and this partnership has evolved into one of great respect for a man who is truly committed to strengthening Hawaii's agricultural industry, not just by being an outstanding leader but always looking out for the small or start up farmers. He is an innovator in farming techniques and energy development/ conservation in order to help lower farming costs.**

**He grew his banana farm into the largest in the state by developing his own tissue culture lab to help insure consistency in production. When the banana bunchy top disease devastated him, he transitioned into becoming a premier producer of hothouse tomatoes that were voted to have the best flavor in the state.**

**Many people talk about supporting local agriculture but they are not farmers and have no understanding about what it takes to be a farmer or the struggles that a farmer faces on a daily basis. Richard is a farmer and one that is willing to stick his neck out on issues affecting the industry. As one of the largest growers in the state, we cannot afford to lose the voice or support of one of the most successful, committed members of the agricultural industry in Hawaii. His common sense approach to issues and his vast experience as a farmer is what we can truly benefit from.**



**I ask that the committee confirm Richard for another term on the Board of Agriculture.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to strongly support this outstanding nominee.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tish Uyebara". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray background that features a faint, repeating pattern of pineapples.

**Tish Uyebara  
Director of Marketing**

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [clyde@kahukubrand.com](mailto:clyde@kahukubrand.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 12:31:02 PM

---

**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Clyde Fukuyama	Matsuda-Fukuyama Farms, Inc.	Support	No

Comments: We are in strong support of Mr. Richard Ha's nomination to the Board of Agriculture. He has over 35 years of very successful farming background here in Hawaii. Richard understands the issues and challenges that agriculture faces. He a forward and objective thinker and Hawaii's agriculture will definitely benefit by his presence on the Board of Agriculture.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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# **Y. HIRAYAMA FARM, INC.**

Post Office Box 604  
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

Telephone: (808) 885-7836  
Fax: (808) 887-0143

March 26, 2014

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara  
Chair Committee on Agriculture  
and Members of the Committee  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 229  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 598 – Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD HA, for a term to expire  
6-30-2018

Dear Senator Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Our farm, Y. HIRAYAMA FARM, INC., of the Lalamilo Farm Lots, Kamuela, Hawaii support the reappointment of Richard Ha to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

We believe that his extensive farming background and his belief in ag sustainability makes him highly qualified to serve on the Board. He is aware of the obstacles that farmers face everyday. We can be assured that he will continue to represent the farmers' interest and perpetuate his belief in ag sustainability.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Y. HIRAYAMA FARM, INC.  
Royce Hirayama  
Charlene Hirayama  
Nathan Hirayama  
Cheryl Hirayama

# BIA-HAWAII

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

THE VOICE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

## TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Thursday, March 27, 2014

2:50 p.m.

State Capitol - Room 229

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BKA Builders, Inc.

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**Paul D. Silen**  
Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co., Inc.

#### Special Appointee-Builder

**Mark Kennedy**  
HASEKO Construction Management  
Group, Inc.

#### Special Appointee-Associate

**Dean Uchida**  
SSFM International, Inc.

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Hawaii-Kauai

#### Marshall Hickox

Homeworks Construction, Inc.

#### Michael Watanabe

JW, Inc.

#### Ryan Engle

Bays Lung Rose & Holma

#### Stephen Hanson

simplicityHR by ALTRES

## **RE: GM 598, CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF RICHARD HA TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Kouchi, and members of the Committee,

My name is Gladys Marrone, Government Relations Director for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii), the Voice of the Construction Industry. We promote our members through advocacy and education, and provide community outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. BIA-Hawaii is a not-for-profit professional trade organization chartered in 1955, and affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

BIA-Hawaii **supports** the appointment of Mr. Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture. Mr. Ha currently serves on the Board of Agriculture as the Hawaii Island member and has successfully represented Hawaii's agricultural interest.

Mr. Ha brings 35 years of experience in active farming, as owner of Hamakua Springs Country Farms, a 600-acre Big Island farm producing hydroponic vegetables and bananas. His farm is operated by 70 employees alongside 5 family members. He has farmed in four distinct growing regions on Hawaii Island and understands farming and its impacts from field to fork.

Mr. Ha is a strong supporter of small farmers, and understands the importance of food security and providing healthy and affordable food for the people of Hawaii.

Some farming and agricultural milestones credited to Mr. Ha include his banana farm being the first in the world to be certified Eco OK, placing in the top six in the country for the Patrick Madden, Sustainable Ag Research & Education (SARE) award, being food safety certified, utilizing unmanned aerial vehicles to monitor his banana crop, and starting a hydroponic tomato operation.

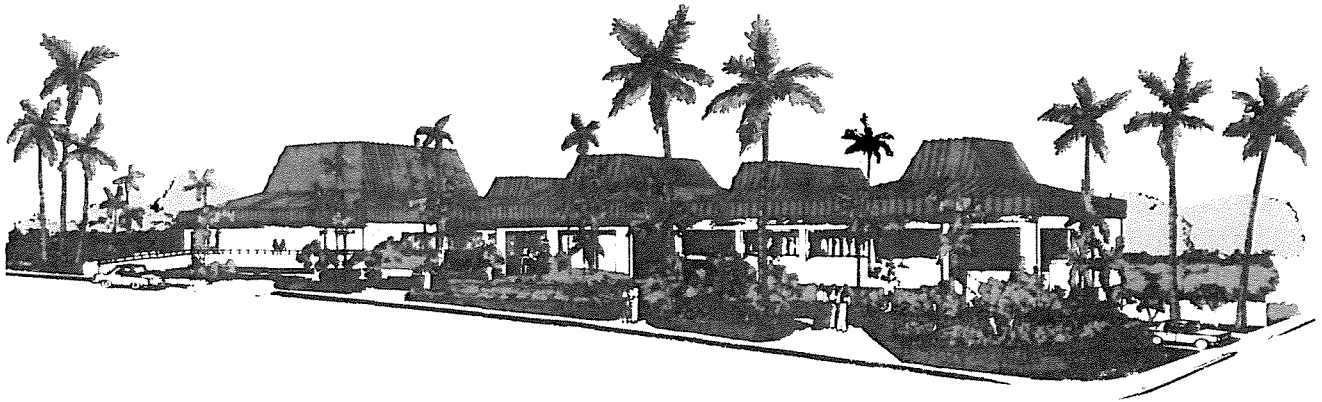
Mr. Ha is positive member of our community and a true advocate for agriculture. He understands all levels of agriculture and how important it is for Hawaii's future generation to be sustainable.

Mr. Ha is a true visionary and we **support** his confirmation.

We appreciate the opportunity to share with you our views.



# LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA LOCAL 368



**PETER A. GANABAN**  
*Business Manager/  
Secretary-Treasurer*

**ALFONSO OLIVER**  
*President*

**JOBY NORTH II**  
*Vice President*

**TONI FIGUEROA**  
*Recording Secretary*

**THOMAS CATHCART**  
*Executive Board*

**JAMES DRUMGOLD JR.**  
*Executive Board*

**LEIMOMI JOHNSON**  
*Executive Board*

**MARK MAGUSARA**  
*Auditor*

**MARK TRAVALINO**  
*Auditor*

**JOSEPH YAW**  
*Auditor*

**NELSON S. TERRADO**  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

March 26, 2014

Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Honorable Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Agriculture

Re: GM 598 Mr. Richard Ha

Dear Chair Nishihara:

On behalf of Mr. Peter Ganaban, Business Manager, Secretary/Treasurer and the several thousand members of the Hawaii Laborers' Union, we strongly support the nomination and re-appointment of Mr. Ha to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Ha is considered a dean of agriculture. He is a self-made success story that encourages others to go into agriculture. Mr. Ha is President of Hamakua Springs Country Farms a 600 acre banana and hydroponic tomato operation.

Mr. Ha is an advocate for food security and fully understands that agriculture and energy are intertwined. He is therefore very pro-active in both endeavors. Mr. Ha has served the Board of Agriculture and the people of Hawaii very well with his knowledge and experience. He says, "Not no can, but Can!"

For these reasons and more, we humbly ask the Committee to confirm Mr. Ha's nomination to the Board of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

  
Al Lardizabal  
Government Relations



**Research Designed for Agriculture**

11479 S. Ave D  
Yuma, Arizona USA 85365  
(928) 783-3552 Fax (928)  
www.rd4ag.com

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Senators Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senators Hirono and Schatz:

I am writing in support of reappointing Mr. Richard Ha to the Hawaii State Board of Agriculture.

My business, Research Designed for Agriculture (RD4AG) has been providing independent, un-biased agricultural research services to the international agribusiness industry since 1983. We assist companies in the development, assessment and regulatory aspects of exciting new technologies to further the success of agriculture in providing food and fiber to a hungry world.

Safe, economical, agricultural technologies, and sustainable, responsible farming practices should be assessed on their own merits, based on science, and independent of political or ideological motives. Mr. Ha is keenly aware of this, and has worked tirelessly throughout his career to learn everything he can about how to make Hawaii agriculture the best it can be for environmental safety, food safety, and economic sustainability. He supports all types of farmers regardless of their production systems.

I first met Richard in 1991 when he offered his farm as a research site. Immediately upon arrival at his Kea'au plantation I could see that this was no ordinary farm. Mr. Ha and his family had incorporated a series of practices designed to protect the environment and the workers, as well as to maximize production and long term success of the farm. Not long after, I saw an article in the World Watch Institute magazine about a new eco-friendly program they were doing for the banana industry. I forwarded this to Richard and he seized upon the chance to become Eco-OK certified for his Earth friendly practices, and to learn more about how to do even better. Richard is always thinking about how to make things better, not only for himself, but for others as well. He thinks long term, and sees what Hawaii needs to stay healthy and competitive.

In short, Richard Ha is an asset to Hawaiian Agriculture, selflessly sacrificing his own time and energy for the betterment of all. I unconditionally support Mr. Ha for his bid for reappointment to the Hawaii State Board of Agriculture, and I hope you will too.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee West', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lee West  
President



# Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

*Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii*

Testimony from Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director

In strong support of GM-598 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD HA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018

Senate Committee on Agriculture  
March 27, 2:50 p.m., room 229

Aloha Chair Nishihara and members of the committee,

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, and we are in strong support of the appointment of Richard Ha to the State Board of Agriculture.

*And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker." So God made a farmer.*

When I listen to the 1978 speech by radio newscaster Paul Harvey, I know that he is talking about Richard Ha. I've included the full speech below because it reminds me that Richard Ha along with the many other Hawaii farmers should be the people that elected officials need to listen to when passing policies that impact agriculture.

I first met Richard Ha six years ago and at the time, it was obvious that he was an advocate for farmers. He is now infamously known for his quote before then House Chair Clift Tsuji, "Farmers will farm if they make money." He supports all forms of agriculture – regardless of the choice of crop or methodology. He supports anything that improves the viability of agriculture in Hawaii – and that includes technology. From alternative energy to hydroponics to biotechnology, farmers have the right – the freedom – to farm using all the tools in the toolbox. He puts farmers first.

Since that time, I have seen him stand up with pride to fight for the rights of all farmers – organic, conventional and biotech. And in the process, like many of the papaya and seed farmers, he has been a target of the activists as well as elected officials from his island. Their newest label – that he is "Pro-GMO" – is intended to discredit and slander his reputation and has resulted in a campaign of negativity to oppose his re-appointment. Just because he supports farmers.

But one thing is certain: **Farmers support Richard Ha.** And we support his appointment to the Board of Ag. There are a handful of people who have given their life to agriculture and to supporting farmers and their families.

## HCIA 2012-2014 Board of Directors

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91-285 Fort Weaver Rd.

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Tel: (808) 224-3648

director@chiaonline.com

www.hciaonline.com



COLLEEN W. HANABUSA

1ST DISTRICT, HAWAII

238 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TELEPHONE: 202-225-2726  
FAX: 202-225-0688

300 ALA MOANA BLVD.  
ROOM 4-104  
HONOLULU, HI 96850  
TELEPHONE: 808-541-2570  
FAX: 808-533-0133

hanabusa.house.gov



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1101

COMMITTEE ON  
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SUBCOMMITTEES:  
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ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES  
PUBLIC LANDS AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

March 26, 2014

Testimony in support of Reappointment of Richard Ha  
Board of Agriculture  
State of Hawaii  
Governor's Message 598

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee,

I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of the reappointment of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture, State of Hawaii. As a farmer, business man, and longtime advocate for agriculture, Mr. Ha is a valuable member of the Board, and his continued service would be a benefit to our state.

The issues facing Hawaii agriculture and our state's farmers are growing more complex, including the preservation and best use of our limited agricultural lands, the appropriate use of pesticides, and the presence of genetically modified foods in our community. I believe it is vital that those who serve on Hawaii's Board of Agriculture approach these issues with a sense of both the realistic needs of our farmers and the real science that should drive decisions about our future. Richard Ha has amply demonstrated these vital abilities.

Through his consistent dedication to confronting issues of sustainability, technology, food safety, and energy, Richard Ha has shown that he is both willing to and capable of addressing tomorrow's issues as well as today's. That is not simply a matter of vision; it is also the product of a deep and fundamental understanding of his industry, combined with the capacity to approach emerging technologies with an open mind.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage you to confirm Richard Ha in his reappointment to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

COLLEEN W. HANABUSA  
Member of Congress

Richard Ha deserves our gratitude. Not the derision from anti-GMO activists and their friends in elected office who have never farmed a day in their life. It's time to listen to the farmers. Please appoint Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture.

**1978 Paul Harvey Speech, "So God Made a Farmer"**

*And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker." So God made a farmer.*

*God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board." So God made a farmer.*

*"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies and tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon -- and mean it." So God made a farmer.*

*God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain'n from 'tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours." So God made a farmer.*

*God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place. So God made a farmer.*

*God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark. It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church.*

*"Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does.'" So God made a farmer.*

**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Richard Ha Reappointment to Agricultural Board  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 10:34:12 AM

---

**From:** Michael L. Kaleikini [mailto:Mkaleikini@ormat.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2014 10:27 AM  
**To:** All Senators  
**Subject:** Support for Richard Ha Reappointment to Agricultural Board

Dear Senators,

My name is Mike Kaleikini, a resident of Hilo, Hawaii and an employee at the geothermal facility in Pahoehoe, Hawaii. Please accept this email as support for the reappointment for Mr. Richard Ha to the Department of Agriculture Board. I have known Mr. Ha personally for about 10 years and have known *about* Mr. Ha for over 20 years.

These are some of the reasons why I support Mr. Ha's reappointment:

- Successfully represented and completed his first term on the Agriculture Board
- Mr. Ha is a veteran US Army Captain that served in Viet Nam
- Has a proven record over many, many years of experience and diversification in farming (Banana's, tomatoes, et al)
- Mr. Ha is committed to Hawaii's Food Security and is well aware how the high cost of Energy play's a major role in Food Security
- Mr. Ha is committed to helping the community, especially the folks that are closest to the lowest economic rung, which often times are Hawaiians
- Mr. Ha utilizes scientific information and not emotion to base his decisions to farming and community support

I support the reappointment of Richard Ha to the Agricultural Board and I respectfully ask that the members of the Hawaii Senate please support Mr. Ha's reappointment too.

Mahalo, Mike Kaleikini

 ***Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?***

\*\*\*\*\*  
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\*\*\*\*\*



**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Supporting Richard Ha for Reappointment to Ag Board  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 12:18:46 PM

---

-----Original Message-----

From: ROBERT SAUNDERS [<mailto:resaunders@hawaii.rr.com>]  
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2014 11:00 AM  
To: All Senators  
Subject: Supporting Richard Ha for Reappointment to Ag Board

Senators

I have known Richard Ha for almost twenty years. First when I was president of W.H.Shipman Ltd. a large land owner in East Hawaii. In that capacity we dealt extensively with agriculture related issues as he was one of the major lessees of Shipman land.

Following that I got to know Richard when I served as Chairman of the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board where Richard served as a volunteer board member. There we worked together on a range of issues including ag sustainability, preparing our young people for the challenges of the future and, perhaps most importantly, support for the Thirty Meter Telescope where Richard played a major role.

In both instances I observed Richard to possess a unique combination of intelligence, thoughtfulness and low key demeanor.

His willingness to make decisions based on facts makes him an ideal candidate for the Board.

With respect, I ask that you support Richard Ha for reappointment to the Agriculture Board.

Robert Saunders  
551 Akala Rd.  
Hilo, HI 96720

**WILLIAM L. MOORE PLANNING, INC.**

**159 HALAI STREET  
HILO, HAWAII 96720  
(808) 987-7336  
wlmoore@outlook.com**

March 24, 2014

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Via email: [AGL@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:AGL@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Dear Senators Nishihara, Kouchi and Committee Members:

**Re: Consideration and Confirmation of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture**

Thank you for the opportunity to express my view on the above-referenced applicant. I support Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture.

I understand that there is some controversy regarding Mr. Ha's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture because of his positions. Not being afraid to take on tough issues is the exact reason why he should be confirmed to the Board.

There is not a better advocate for agriculture on the Island of Hawaii. We need more people that walk the talk about farming in this environment. It is a tough business and we need tough people to represent and address the issues. We also need thoughtful and innovative professionals that can deal with the complex issues facing the agricultural industry.

I have also gotten to know Richard as a friend and it is as a friend that I can provide my unqualified support for his reappointment to the Board of Agriculture. With his previous experience on the Board, his knowledge of the Big Island, his commitment to the community, and his character, I cannot think of more qualified candidate for this appointment.

Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



---

William L. Moore, President

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mauibrad@hotmail.com](mailto:mauibrad@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 1:29:29 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brad Parsons	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [hyposusan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hyposusan@sbcglobal.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 1:47:28 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Bambara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose Ricard Ha's nomination because he is a known advocate for Monsanto - I don't know what kind of egregious Monsanto lobbying is going on in our Governor's office but the legislation is in office for the PEOPLE of Hawaii and not big biz whose machinations and nomination are angling to put people on the Ag board who care not for the health or will of people over profit. Please remember your duty to the people over profit and block Mr Ha's nomination Thank you for you conscience in this decision

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [cfrith@fbsmgt.com](mailto:cfrith@fbsmgt.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 2:10:19 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cynthia Frith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose the appointment of Richard Ha to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture, as he is an advocate of GMO practices. This agency needs more balance in dealing with this extremely volatile topic. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 2:33:02 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wayne Takamine	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Testimony in Opposition to the appointment of Richard Ha to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture. COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair Aloha Chair Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair Ronald Kouchi and the Agriculture Committee: I oppose the nomination of Richard Ha for the Hawaii Board of Agriculture. Respectfully, Wayne Takamine Honolulu

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [haleemh@hotmail.com](mailto:haleemh@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 2:54:52 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
haleem hamid	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I don't believe Richard Ha is the right man for the job. He is clearly biased and in favor of whatever biotechnology wants. He will not reflect the will of the people in this area of agriculture. He refuses to listen to the organic industry which will be threatened by contamination from the biotech industry. Please do not elect this man.

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**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [denisehayashi@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:denisehayashi@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 3:27:17 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Denise Hayashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like to send my support for Richard Ha's appointment to the Board of Agriculture.

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March 27, 2014

Senate Committee on Agriculture

Testimony in support of  
GM 598 – Richard Ha  
Board of Agriculture

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and committee members:

My name is Alan Takemoto. I am in **strong support** of GM 598 and respectfully urge the committee to confirm Mr. Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Ha is one of the most progressive and knowledgeable leaders in Hawaii's agricultural industry. He is constantly working towards making small local farmers remain viable and competitive in the global market. He continues to look at renewable energy as one way we can stabilize the agricultural industry by keeping our energy cost down.

Mr. Ha is fair and balance. He is very approachable and always willing to listen to everyone's opinions. His no nonsense approach is refreshing and much appreciated. The State of Hawaii and the agricultural industry has and will benefit from Mr. Ha's expertise and knowledge.

Please support and confirm Mr. Ha to the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo,

Alan Takemoto  
1448 Young Street, #1402  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
808-292-3205

**From:** [clifton tsuji](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM598 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD HA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 3:31:31 PM

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March 24, 2014

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 204  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

I highly recommend the appointment of nominee Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Ha is a citizen of Hawai'i who has dedicated much of his time initiating agriculture sustainability movements. He is a small farmer by definition, who communicates well with his peers and plays an active role in the community. His leadership and passion has been displayed through his frequent visits to the legislature promoting agriculture.

I have known Mr. Ha for over ten years, and have shared agricultural interests for the benefit our communities. He will be an outstanding contributor for the Board with his impeccable work ethic and visionary ideals for the future of agriculture in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

CLIFT TSUJI

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**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [seineil@gmail.com](mailto:seineil@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 3:40:39 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Neil Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mgalimba@kuahiwiranch.com](mailto:mgalimba@kuahiwiranch.com)  
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**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 3:48:38 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Galimba	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support the reappointment of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture. Richard is a thought and action leader in the agricultural community. His interest in and advocacy for clean energy initiatives are invaluable.

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**From:** [Ross Wilson](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#); [All Senators](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Richard Ha to the State Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 4:13:14 PM

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Aloha Senators!

I am writing to you from Kona to support Richard Ha's nomination to the State Board of Agriculture.

I have known Richard Ha for over 20 years through many different organizations and his personal involvement to make things better for local working families on the Big Island.

While everyone today is touting food sustainability and supporting the initiative to get local people to farm, this has been Richard Ha's life work and mission.

Richard Ha is a native Hawaiian farmer and our local youth to look up to him because of his lifelong interest in farming, food sustainability and decreasing our energy dependence on foreign oil. Richard serves as a great example for our young people today especially native Hawaiians.

He's an entrepreneur and his Hamakua Springs farm employs 70 workers on the Big Island. Richard understands all aspects of farming and what's needed to help ensure that farmers are successful.

Richard is a farmers' farmer and has represented farmers well on the State Board of Agriculture and will continue to represent farmers well should you again approve his nomination.

I urge your support and kokua for Richard Ha.

Mahalo!

Ross Wilson Jr.  
Kailua-Kona  
808-937-3678

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**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mcblivestock@gmail.com](mailto:mcblivestock@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 4:19:31 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Bryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Richard is as qualified a candidate to be on the BOA as anyone in the state.

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1205 Malawaina Place  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
March 24, 2014

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Committee on Agriculture  
Hawaii State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: GM 598 Nomination of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture

Dear Senator Nishihara and Members of the Agriculture Committee:

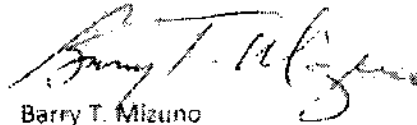
I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Richard Ha to another term on the State Board of Agriculture.

I have personally known Mr. Ha for many years and have great respect for his intelligence, honesty and integrity. Mr. Ha has long been an advocate for farmers and has been quoted several times saying, "if the farmer makes money, he will continue farming; if he does not make money, he will not." I can appreciate this and my family and I support the local farmers and wish to continue eating many of the local, fresh produce.

I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Ha as board members of Hawaii Island Economic Development Board as well as serving on the Mayor's Geothermal Energy Working Group, and am happy to call him a friend. As a member of the community, I also appreciate Mr. Ha's generosity in helping with so many public events by donating his prized produce. He genuinely cares about the community.

I am sorry I am unable to present my testimony in person. I urge you to support the nomination of Mr. Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture.

Sincerely,



Barry T. Mizuno

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Duane K. Okamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support Richard Ha's continuation as a member of the Board of Agriculture. He is an objective and thoughtful advocate for agriculture.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 5:55:49 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Charles W Spitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have rarely worked with someone who has advanced agriculture in Hawaii who is as honorable, intelligent, persistent, adaptable and centered on Hawaiian values as Richard Ha. To fail to appoint this public spirited good man would be a loss the Board of Agriculture and so many involved in in real Hawaii agriculture.

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**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 7:32:07 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul A. komara, Jr.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this second appointment to this committee. Mr. HA supports the agro/biotech industry that is destroying the Aina and ocean of Hawaii. I oppose mR. Ha and support Senator Ruderman's position. Aloha, Paul

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**Cc:** [kamiyak002@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kamiyak002@hawaii.rr.com)  
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**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 7:54:32 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kenneth Y. Kamiya	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Kenneth Kamiya and I a papaya farmer from Oahu. I have known Mr. Ha for over 35 years and as ever he commands my greatest respect. He is an innovative and successful farmer who always leads the way for Hawaiian agriculture. Please confirm his appointment to the Board of Agriculture.

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Jeffrey Melrose  
1405 Waianuenue Ave  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

March 25, 2014

Chairman Nishihara  
State Senate  
Honolulu Hawaii

**Subject: GM 598 Appointment of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture IN SUPPORT**

Aloha Chairman Nishihara and Members of the Committee;

I want to rise in support of Richard Ha as the best possible reappointment to the Board of Agriculture from Hawaii Island. Richard has proven farm credentials with over thirty years in the industry. During that time he has been a leader in the state's production of bananas and is a leading producer of tomato and other green house food crops. He is also a lessor of farm lands to other food producers and a successful distributor of a wide range of food crops produced by small growers on Hawaii Island.

Richard's commitment to agriculture does not revolve around himself and his own business interests. He is a mentor and role model to many and a highly respected community resource person with a clarity of thought that is rare to find. He is a clear public voice for the simple logic of farming success. To the frequent voices who want to dictate to others from the bleachers about how farming should be done, Richard says frequently, "...if the farmer can make money, the farmer will farm". He understands that the key to sustainability in agriculture rests ultimately with the economic livelihood of the farmer and his/her ability to pay the bills, provide a home and a future of his family and give something of value back to the community.

To call Richard Ha simply a farmer is too small a title. He is a thought leader and a clear voice for some of the most important issues to face this state. He is a visionary on energy issues and has long realized the importance of developing clean, renewable energy, not just as a way to be environmentally correct but because it is an economic necessity. He understands the critical link between food price, the cost of living and the growing cost of fossil fuels. Richard has been a gallant leader in the public discourse on energy futures and is an advocate for the economic future of the "rubber slipper folks" with whom his personal roots are buried. Richard not only talks the talk but he walks the walk, having just installed a 100KW hydropower plant at his farm to insure that his farm cost of production can go down, and not be whipsaw by the cost of fossil fuel.

Richard grows food safety certified, non-GMO crops in an environmentally sensitive manner. He is not talking about doing it, **he and his family are doing it every day.**

I urge you to confirm Richard Ha for another 4 year term on the State Board of Agriculture. He is a thoughtful man, with an open mind who listens well and is not afraid to speak the truths that others need to hear.

With all Respect

Jeffrey Melrose  
Land Planner and Hawaii Island Resident



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**Cc:** [mack127osu@yahoo.com](mailto:mack127osu@yahoo.com)  
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**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 10:06:56 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kristin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As someone who works in Hawaii agriculture, I strongly support the appointment of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture. He is great leader in our industry and will make significant contributions to the board.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 10:23:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [First Long Term Study Released on Pigs, Cattle Who Eat GMO Soy and Corn Offers Frightening Results.odt](#)

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barb Cuttance	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in STRONG OPPOSITION to the proposed appointment of Richard Ha to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture. I would prefer to see that this board is made up of a cross section of agricultural expertise to give a more balanced view. With the chair already strongly in support of GMO I believe it is important to ensure that the organic agricultural community is well represented on this important board. Richard Ha has stated that science supports his beliefs regarding GMO, however he has failed to produce any long term indepenant studies that support this when I have asked him. There are no long term, independantly funded studies that support his belief, in fact quite the contrary. See attached. Please do not allow this appointment to take place.

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**From:** [Dennis Gonsalves](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for the appointment of Mr. Reginald M. Hasegawa for Pesticide Advisory Committee  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 11:10:04 PM

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Dear Honorable Governor Abercrombie:

I strongly support the appointment of Mr. Reginald M. Hasegawa to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides representing the Pesticide Industry.

I have known Mr. Hasegawa for over 20 years as I led the team that developed the transgenic Rainbow papaya which helped to save the papaya industry. I got to know Reggie as he served diligently with the Hawaii Papaya Industry Association in various capacities over 20 plus years. He was extremely supportive in our efforts to develop the transgenic papaya and in clearly explaining the reasons on why we developed the transgenic papaya and how it is helping the papaya industry and Hawaii's agriculture.

Mr. Hasegawa is honest and has a very positive outlook, which will help the Advisory Committee on Pesticides as it tackles tough problems.

Again, I very strongly support the appointment of Mr. Reginald M. Hasegawa for the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Aloha,

Dr. Dennis Gonsalves  
Former Director of USDA Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center



**From:** [kcaiprez@gmail.com](mailto:kcaiprez@gmail.com)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Gilbert Kahele](#); [Sen. Malama Solomon](#)  
**Subject:** Confirmation of Richard Ha  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 11:58:58 PM

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Aloha Senator Nishihara, I am Patrick L. Kahawaiolaa a native Hawaiian as defined under the HHCA, 1920 as amended July 9, 1921. I am sending this testimony to all of you for your favorable consideration of another native Hawaiian whose ohana began a career in farming on Hawaii island on some of the most inhospitable lands available for agriculture and 35 years later their humble beginning Mr. Richard Ha is a successful farmer and President of Hamakua Springs in Pepeekeo. I've known Mr. Ha as an honorable person who has the interest of the people who struggle to make ends meet whether it be trying to find alternative ways to be sustainable in food product and in ways to help those same people with finding ways to reduce the high cost of energy and finding alternative forms of producing a clean energy source on Hawaii island. His knowledge in the agriculture field is truly an asset for those who contemplate making a living as farmers and his strong support for Agriculture and food security for Hawaii island and the rest of the islands goes without question. I realize this confirmation hearing is the process we need so take to have someone with his abilities and expertise confirmed to served the people of Hawaii. His reported stance on controversial subjects such as GMO, Geothermal power has always been to have all those issues truly vetted and that the public has the ability to be included in the process.

Some of his other attributes are he we both graduated from Big island public schools. He is a combat veteran, like myself serving in Vietnam. He attended the UH-Manoa and majored in Accounting. I am asking for a favorable vote on his confirmation to continue to serve the people of Hawaii island and the rest of the State.

I can be reached at (808) 937-8217.

'Owau Patrick L. Kahawaiolaa



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**From:** [Hagens, Nate \(IIER\)](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [All Senators](#)  
**Subject:** Testimonial regarding Richard Ha  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:54:21 AM

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Dear Hawaiian Senators,

I am a consultant in the area of energy/economy/environment. Formerly I worked as a Vice President at Lehman Brothers and Salomon Brothers and now sit on the Board of Directors of: Bottleneck Foundation, Post Carbon Institute, Institute for Study of Energy and Our Future, and Institute for Integrated Economic Research. In the course my energy/economy work I have many colleagues on Oahu and the Big Island and have met and interacted with Richard Ha frequently over the past several years.

The world is headed for a transition - it may be smooth or it may be rough, but the primary drivers of economic growth - cheap energy and available credit, are waning. Hawaii especially is vulnerable to high oil prices as you use oil directly for electricity and import oil indirectly in the transportation costs of most goods. Richard Ha is very knowledgeable about the energy foundation of our economies. He is a visionary on how to use local inputs in a sustainable way to produce basic needs (food, electricity). He is selfless and cares deeply about Hawaii's future in an era of expensive oil, particularly as it pertains to food production and healthy, balanced diets.

I don't claim to know the future, but business as usual, in my opinion, will produce some unpleasant non-linear results. Hawaii had a much larger population in the past so ambitious locally derived plans are definitely possible to succeed. Adaptive, flexible, ecologically informed thinking by pro-social, civically engaged leaders is what will make Hawaii a better place in the future. If I lived in Hawaii I would be going door to door in support of Richard Ha for Ag Board. Your county/state needs more thinkers/doers like Richard, not fewer. I hope you do some research on what he's accomplished and Hawaii's future doesn't become victim to politics as usual. Richard is a unique local resource you should take advantage of.

Sincerely,  
Nate Hagens

Nathan John Hagens, Director  
Institute for Integrated Economic Research  
Bay City, WI 54723  
phone: (802) 999 2614

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**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rsmith@lanihau.net](mailto:rsmith@lanihau.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 6:11:20 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Riley Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support Richard Ha's appointment to the Board of Agriculture. He is a "real" farmer and is concerned with the self sustainability of our State, as well as minimizing our dependence on fossil fuels. Please support his nomination. Riley Smith

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**Cc:** [All Senators](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of Richard Ha for Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 6:22:08 AM

---

Dear Mr. Nishihara,

I would like to write to offer my support for reappointment of Richard Ha as a member of the Board of Agriculture. I write about energy issues on my website [OurFiniteWorld.com](#). I have known Richard Ha since 2007, and have visited Hawaii to speak about how high oil prices affect Hawaii, and about how Hawaii might be able to better position itself to deal with these issues. Richard Ha is interested in these issues as well, as evidenced by his installing a 100 KW hydroelectric generator which will guarantee a steady source of inexpensive electricity, regardless of oil prices. Richard realizes that availability of food and energy are closely linked. If we don't have energy security, we can't have food security.

Richard Ha has 35 years of farming experience, in four different locations within Hawaii (Waiakea Uka, Kapoho, Kea'au, Pepeekeo), so has deep knowledge of the issues farmers face. He also has training in accounting, so understands from a numbers perspective how different alternatives work together. He has operated his own culture lab, so has knows the biological ins and outs as well. Richard is very much interested in the use of scientific methods as the basis of sound decision making. He is not afraid to try new approaches—he is using unmanned aerial vehicles to monitor his banana crop.

Richard is concerned about the health of customers and the long-run sustainability of operations, as evidenced by his having the first banana farm in the world to be certified Eco OK. He was one of the top six in the country for the Patrick Madden, Sustainable Ag Research and Education (SARE) award.

I am sure Mr. Ha will continue to offer fine service to the board if reappointed.

Sincerely,

Gail Tverberg

Gail E. Tverberg, FCAS, MAAA, MS  
Energy Researcher  
(407) 443-0505  
[Our Finite World](#)  
1246 Shiloh Trail East NW  
Kennesaw, GA 30144

**From:** [Michael Shintaku](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Please reappoint Richard Ha to board of agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 6:29:46 AM

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Please reappoint Richard Ha to the board of agriculture. He is a real farmer providing vital food and jobs on our island. He understands the challenges of farming in Hawaii, and is willing to serve our public.

I am a professor in the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Management at UH-Hilo, and the recent push towards banning transgenic crops greatly saddens me. It displays an embarrassing lack of understanding of agriculture and science by a portion of Hawaii's public, and is being pushed almost exclusively by folks with no experience in farming.

Richard Ha supports all agriculture. He provides a rational voice in this debate, and has expressed his willingness to change his position in the face of evidence. Others wouldn't do the same.

I am not expressing the opinion of our campus, just myself.

Aloha,  
Michael Shintaku, Professor of Plant Pathology  
UHH

## **Testimony for Richard Ha, Reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.**

I AM IN SUPPORT OF RICHARD HA FOR THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. I HAVE KNOWN RICHARD HA FOR OVER 20 YEARS, SINCE HE OWNED KEAAU BANANA PLANTATION. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN, AND STILL IS, AN OPEN MINDED, AND INNOVATIVE PERSON. HE IS A LOCAL PERSON BORN AND RAISED IN HAWAII WITH THE WELFARE OF BOTH CONSUMER AND PRODUCERS IN MIND.

PLEASE REAPPOINT RICHARD HA.

THANK YOU,

AILEEN YEH  
AILEEN'S NURSERY AND WUNG RANCH  
942 W. Kawaihāni St, Hilo , HI  
EMAIL: [ayeh@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ayeh@hawaii.rr.com)  
Phone: (808) 9362671

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [nancy@alohakohalarealty.com](mailto:nancy@alohakohalarealty.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 6:34:57 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Carr Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a resident of Hawaii Island, I wholeheartedly support the reappointment of Richard Ha to the Department of Agriculture. Richard is an honorable man who works hard for the people in terms of staying on top of energy costs and our energy future, as it relates to agricultural and our hopes and plan to become as sustainable as is possible. Thank you. Nancy Carr Smith

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [boballproperty@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:boballproperty@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 6:43:05 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bob Farias	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [TJ Glauthier](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Richard Ha's Confirmation  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 6:58:25 AM

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Dear Senator Nishihara,

I am writing to support the nomination of Richard Ha for another term as a member of the State's Board of Agriculture.

As everyone who knows Richard will agree, he is a tireless advocate for the public interest in everything he does. He has dedicated his whole career to developing agricultural practices and other programs that better serve the environment and the people of Hawaii. What he has done on his own Hamakua Springs Country Farm is great testimony to that, in both farming practices and the use of renewable energy.

In addition, he has demonstrated his strong commitment to Hawaii's sustainability through his many public roles, including his service on the Board of Agriculture, the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative steering committee, the Big Island Community Coalition, the State's Geothermal working group, and his informal community leadership in the thirty meter telescope process. Throughout all of his work, Richard has always been unquestionably honest, accessible, and straightforward with both the public and with elected leaders -- and always focused on what is in the best interests of the people of Hawaii.

I offer these comments from the perspective of someone outside of Hawaii who has dealt with officials at the national level in Washington, DC, and in states and counties across the country.

I served the country during the Clinton Administration for over five years at the White House as a Presidential appointee at the Office of Management and Budget (where, among other things, I worked closely with the Department of Agriculture), and for two years as the Senate-confirmed Deputy Secretary of Energy, the number two official at the DOE. I was also on President Obama's transition team and I continue to serve informally as an advisor. Currently, I am a member of a Congressional advisory panel reviewing the governance and structure of the nation's nuclear weapons programs. I also serve at the local level, where I am the president of the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District in California.

Throughout my experience in government, I rank Richard Ha as one of the most dedicated, honest, knowledgeable and public-focused people I have ever had the pleasure to know. I admire him greatly and encourage you to confirm him in order to continue his good public service for the people of Hawaii.

Aloha,

TJ

***TJ Glauthier***  
***TJG Energy Associates, LLC***  
1001 Ocean Blvd.,  
Moss Beach, CA 94038  
650-353-6061  
[tjglauthier@gmail.com](mailto:tjglauthier@gmail.com)



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [alluvio@aloha.net](mailto:alluvio@aloha.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7:10:01 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Matsushima	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Richard Ha has been one of the farmers that has advocated for the small farmers throughout his life. He farms, he is active in the community, and he cares about OUR HAWAII. He has always worked to make Hawaii a better place for all of us. Please support this vital individual who helps to give farmers a VOICE in the constant bashing that they receive. The Board of Agriculture needs him to be the advocate for Small farmers. Please confirm Richard Ha for the Board of Agriculture.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jimmygomes@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jimmygomes@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7:26:36 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [Scot Nelson](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#); [All Senators](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for 27 Mar 2014 (Room 250 of the capitol)  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7:27:04 AM

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Senators:

In this letter I strongly support the nomination by the Governor of Mr. Richard Ha to serve on the Hawaii Board of Ag.

My name is Scot Nelson. I reside at 3029 Lowrey Ave, Apt. H-3115, Honolulu, Hawaii. I work as a plant pathologist for the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I have known Richard Ha since 1992, and since then have worked collaboratively with him on many of his farming and agricultural projects.

The most prominent feature of Richard Ha is his proven success and depth of methods used in making sound, insightful and visionary decisions:

- **Sound:** When confronted with a choice, decision or opportunity, Richard Ha thoroughly, carefully and painstakingly investigates and gathers all of the pertinent information that he can possibly collect. He leaves no stones unturned and considers all options and ramifications before making a choice.
- **Insightful:** Richard Ha has an ability to peel the layers from the surface to see what lies at the core of a problem. This is important to making an efficient decision that has the greatest and most actual impact on a problem or opportunity.
- **Visionary:** Richard Ha's mind is always focused on a future that is most likely to exist within several windows of time: 5, 10 and 20 years. His decisions are not simply temporary fixes to a given problem, but have proven again and again to be reliable and durable in the long term of events.

Scot Nelson  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [drmlsukyo@yahoo.com](mailto:drmlsukyo@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7:27:34 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr Melissa Yee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose the appointment of Mr. Ha to this position on the board. He is strongly biased in favor of GMO technology and there are many who are concerned that organic farmers are not being sufficiently represented. Mr. Ha has shown over he years that he is pro GMO, and the counties have expressed their desire to limit the amount of GMO and chemical spraying in their areas because of the damage they have done in the 20 years they have been experimented on in Hawaii, not only to the environment but human health as well. There are many other farmers who would be better suited to serving in this capacity, and I urge this committee to consider other organic farmers who would make greater effort to protect the environment and support food growing where a minimum of toxic chemicals would be used. Please oppose this appointment and support growing food in Hawaii that is not GMO. Respectfully submitted, Dr. Melissa Yee  
[drmlsukyo@yahoo.com](mailto:drmlsukyo@yahoo.com)

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March 27, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
TESTIMONY ON GM 598

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD HA

Room 229

2:50 pm

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Randy Cabral and I have been involved in farming and ranching for over 40 years on the Big Island.

I am writing in **strong support** of the Governor's nomination of Richard Ha to serve on the Board of Agriculture.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Ha for the past 30 years. He has been a successful farmer for over 35 years and a strong supporter of small farmers. In addition, he is very much involved with various community organizations.

Mr. Ha's diverse experience in the agricultural industry and his proven leadership abilities makes him a great candidate to serve on the Board of Agriculture and I am pleased to support the confirmation of Richard Ha.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this nominee.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rcoonen@yahoo.com](mailto:rcoonen@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7:44:49 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robin Coonen	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I think Richard Ha will continue to be a great asset to our community on the Board of Agriculture. Please support his appointment to the board.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [abircher@me.com](mailto:abircher@me.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7:58:09 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Bircher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: RICHARD HA CONFIRMATION  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7:59:00 AM

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**From:** Hugh Ono [mailto:hono@ssfm.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 6:42 AM  
**To:** All Senators  
**Cc:** Jo-Anna Herkes  
**Subject:** RICHARD HA CONFIRMATION

HONORABLE SENATORS:

MR. HA HAS BEEN A PILLAR AND ADVOCATE FOR HILO AND THE COUNTY OF HAWAII. HIS DECISIONS ARE BASED ON SCIENCE, RATIONALE AND LOGIC.

I ASK YOU TO PLEASE CONFIRM HIM FOR THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. WE NEED GOOD MINDS IN OUR STATE GOVERNEMENT BOARDS.

Hugh Y. Ono, P.E.  
455 Ekela Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please oppose re-appointment of Richard Ha to Ag Board  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:00:12 AM

---

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen Chun [<mailto:Karen@MauiPaddle.com>]  
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2014 5:03 PM  
To: All Senators  
Subject: Please oppose re-appointment of Richard Ha to Ag Board

Dear Senators,

We don't need yet another proponent of the GMO industry - one who actively and continuously lobbies for the GMO industry - on our Ag Board.

Our Ag land should be reserved for local FOOD - not the seed companies who pay no or very little taxes here and export their seeds out of state.

So please do not confirm Richard Ha and tell the Governor to come up with a more neutral appointee whose orientation is for using our ag land for local food.

thank you  
Karen Chun  
87 Lae St.  
Paia HI 06770

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rittew@hotmail.com](mailto:rittew@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:03:54 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Walter Ritte	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha my Name is Walter Ritte from the island of Molokai and I am in strong opposition to Mr. Ha being appointed to the Board of Agriculture. The board is already over populated with GMO supporters and is losing credibility as a neutral body. This is the same trend that is happening at the National level of the "revolving door".

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [nschmicker@molokairanch.com](mailto:nschmicker@molokairanch.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:32:22 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Schmicker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I firmly support the appointment of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture. Several times I have heard Richard speak passionately about supporting Hawaii's farmers. On his own farm he has invested more than his fair share of time and money in innovative techniques that will help all Hawaii's farmers and residents in the long term. He is a great representation of where Hawaii's farmers and farming community should be headed. I have a great respect for his judgement and his perspective on farming in Hawaii. He would make a great leader on the Board of Agriculture.

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**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [hawaiifish@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiifish@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:42:01 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Weidenbach	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mr. Richard Ha is an experienced farmer and agricultural leader who understands the needs of the Hawaii farmer and the realities of farming and agribusiness in Hawaii. He will bring valuable knowledge and hands-on experience to the Hawaii Agriculture Board decision making process. I support his nomination to the Board.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [gregf@haleakalaranch.com](mailto:gregf@haleakalaranch.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:47:53 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gregory Friel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [Hamakua Springs](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Richard Ha Nomination  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:50:40 AM

---

Aloha Nominating Committee and State Senators:

My name is Alberdine Pascua, a native Hawaiian born, raised, living and working as a registered voter on the Big Island. I have worked in the tourist industry for 11 years, then 23 years for an aerial agricultural spraying company and since 2007, as an Office Clerk at Mauna Kea Banana Co., Inc..

My family's history is strongly affected by the presence of sugar plantation experiences and the traditions that were shaped within that culture. The sugar industry had a significant impact on our Hawaiian lifestyle and culture and its demise left a major portion of our labor force dependents struggling to survive.

Richard Ha, not only understands that struggle but, he lives it every day as a farmer and employer in the agricultural industry. His knowledge and experience has been an asset to the Board of Agriculture board in the past and if reappointed, he will continue to be the common sense voice for all the farmers needing our support to stimulate a sustainable economy. Hawai'i should not have to suffer through another agricultural breakdown at the hands of those that manipulate the system. Richard Ha can offer a balance to the discussion table and the board should be eager to have him present.

Sincerely,

Alberdine Pascua  
162 Nahale'a Ave.  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720



**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Richard Ha - please vote Yes  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:04:48 AM

---

**From:** sugi [mailto:jysugi@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:49 AM  
**To:** AGL@capitol.hawaii.gov; All Senators  
**Subject:** Richard Ha - please vote Yes

Please confirm Richard Ha's re-appointment as the County of Hawai'i's representative to the State of Hawaii Board of Agriculture Executive Board. Mr. Ha has spent his whole life doing the actual hard work of farming, and he has made "Hamakua Springs" a premier brand-name beyond Hawaii's shores. You have the golden opportunity to appoint Mr. Ha at a time when we really need his ag and business expertise.

I have never had to do the hard daily work of farming, but my father's family were all Kona coffee farmers long before it was profitable and trendy. My mother's family suffered through the Hilo anthurium growing business for decades. We need people like Mr. Ha who have experienced firsthand the difficulties and challenges of agriculture in Hawaii, who have used science in the fields, and who have invested a lifetime in local businesses.

I am retired now after working in California for 32 years. I am so grateful that I can buy fresh produce from my farmers market in Hilo. I cannot afford to shop at the boutique health food stores (like the one owned by Senator Ruderman). Please don't miss this golden opportunity to appoint Mr. Ha to the state's Agriculture Executive Board. We need his input if we are to succeed in making Hawaii's food sustainable and secure.

Respectfully,  
Jean Sugiyama  
Hilo, Hawaii

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [bbrooks@haleakalaranch.com](mailto:bbrooks@haleakalaranch.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:10:15 AM

---

**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Brooks	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please approve the re-appointmemnt of Richard Ha. We need true and knowledgeable supporters of Agriculture to support our industry.

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Randolph G. Moore  
2445-A Makiki Heights Drive  
Honolulu Hawaii 96822

March 25, 2014

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara  
Chair, and members of the Committee on Agriculture  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Senator Nishihara and members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Subject: GM 598 – nomination of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture

I encourage your confirmation of the appointment of Richard Ha to a second four-year term on the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Ha is a successful farmer, an informed advocate for local agriculture, and a highly productive contributor to the discussion of the economic and social future of our community. His mana`o would continue to be positive for the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

*Randolph G. Moore*

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [page3m@hotmail.com](mailto:page3m@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:45:00 AM

---

**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Page Macy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: I oppose the appointment of Richard Ha to the Agriculture Board  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:59:25 AM

---

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Patricia Blair [<mailto:patriciablair@msn.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:51 AM  
**To:** All Senators  
**Subject:** I oppose the appointment of Richard Ha to the Agriculture Board

Patricia Blair, Kailua, 888-6393  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rvosgood@aol.com](mailto:rvosgood@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:06:51 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
robert osgood	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Richard Ha is highly qualified to serve as a member of the Board of Agriculture. He has wide experience in production agriculture and is an advocate for the family farmer. Please confirm Mr. Ha for the BOA.

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**From:** [Geoffrey Lauer](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** RICHARD HA  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:09:01 AM

---

To whom it may concern,

I support the re-nomination of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture. I am retiring after 34 years with BEI Hawaii and have worked with Richard numerous times. Richard should be afforded the ability to continue his work on the Board and provide the balance approach the Board needs.

Geoffrey B. Lauer  
Hawaii Operations Manager  
BEI Hawaii

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [LaurieHo1@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:LaurieHo1@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:09:07 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurie Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha from Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii. I wish to speak in support of Mr. Richard Ha serving the Hawaii agricultural community on the State Board of Agriculture. I have known Richard for many years when we were growing bananas. He was very helpful and offered advice freely. Richard is very forward thinking and innovative. He is always thinking about sustainability and for the good of our land and its people. Richard has hands-on working knowledge of agriculture in Hawaii. He is a valuable asset to Hawaii. I strongly urge you to support Richard Ha. Mahalo Nui Loa.

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25 March 2014

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara  
Hawaii State Legislature  
[sennishihara@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sennishihara@capitol.hawaii.gov)

his Senate colleagues  
[SENS@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:SENS@capitol.hawaii.gov)

and the Hawaii State Senate Committee on Agriculture  
[AGLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:AGLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Dear Senators,

I write in strong support of the nomination of Richard Ha, President of Hamakua Springs Country Farms, for reappointment to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture. Richard is a distinguished community leader, innovative farmer, and socially-minded business person. His experience and sensibility bring a special kind of akamai to Hawaii agriculture.

I first met Richard more than twenty years ago while a commercial bank executive and business economist, visiting Big Island clients. In those days my bank actually had an agricultural loan division, and my mentor in this line of business was a great local banker named Stan Fujiyama. One year Stan took me to visit Richard's banana farm, a model of innovative production techniques and operational efficiency. The next time Stan took me on a client call, Richard had a banana tissue culture lab. Later, Richard was doing hydroponic cultivation, pursuing sustainable methodologies by installing hydroelectric power generation on his farm. Impressive.

Through the years, every time I met with Richard, either on a bank call or at numerous agricultural industry forums, I was impressed with his leadership. Our discussions over those years have ranged widely from agronomy to natural resource stewardship to energy economics, and even when we have disagreed I have found his positions well thought-out and grounded in science. Modern agriculture in Hawaii today is dominated by knowledge capital formation, while still rooted in crop and livestock production. We need leaders like Richard who understand the differences, and are exemplars of that diversity.

Aloha,



Paul H. Brewbaker  
606 Ululani St.  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-4430

PS: Anybody who goes to the trouble to come out to the UH Waimanalo Experiment Station to see my dad's work is OK by me (see attachment).



Richard Ha and Dr. James L. Brewbaker  
UH Waimanalo Experiment Station  
Field Day 2009

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tshigemoto@abprop.com](mailto:tshigemoto@abprop.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:25:41 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tom H. Shigemoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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March 25, 2014

Agriculture Committee Chair, Scott Nishihara  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, HI 96814

Dear Chair Nishihara,

I am writing as a voting constituent from Hilo, Hawaii in support of Mr. Richard Ha having the opportunity to be nominated to the position of the Board of Agriculture. I am a social services case manager and have had the opportunity to get to know Richard Ha on a personal level through the NUMEROUS charitable donations that he has made to both social services causes as well as educational causes throughout the years. However, I do not just support Richard Ha because of his kindness and generosity to our island children but because of his ability to be impartial and to view agricultural issues from personal knowledge that he has gained over the years as a "grass roots" farmer as well as the scientific knowledge that he has gained in his scope as a small business owner.

I believe and fully support Richard Ha as being a representative on the State of Hawaii Board of Agriculture. I thank you for your time and consideration and would love to hear from you should you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Jenea Respicio  
Voting Constituent  
Social Services Case Manager  
[jenearespicio@gmail.com](mailto:jenearespicio@gmail.com)  
(808) 333-1605

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [afrancokaupo@gmail.com](mailto:afrancokaupo@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:32:06 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alex Franco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [Neil Frazer](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Opposing the appointment of Richard Ha  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:33:35 AM

---

Aloha Senators,

I strongly oppose the proposed appointment of Richard Ha to the State Board of Agriculture, and would prefer that you appoint a candidate with more awareness of the long term environmental effects of pesticide use.

Mahalo for your unselfish service to the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,  
Neil Frazer  
112 Haokea Drive  
Kailua, HI 96734

**From:** [Mitch Ewan](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in Strong Support of Appointment of Richard Ha to Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:36:09 AM

---

Chair Nishihara:

My name is Mitch Ewan. I have known Richard Ha for several years. He has impressed me with his leadership, integrity, vision, and concern for the well-being of Hawaii, in particular the financially challenged “Rubbah Slipper Folks” who need help in a tough economy. Richard brings a common sense approach to developing solutions to meet the challenges facing Hawaii’s agriculture industry. The State of Hawaii could not find a better person to fairly represent all interested parties. Please support his appointment for a new term to the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you.

[Mitch Ewan](#)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jsgreenwell@lanihau.net](mailto:jsgreenwell@lanihau.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:51:43 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James S, Greenwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Richard Ha is an experienced and proven advocate for ag who has demonstrated repeatedly his understanding and sensible approach to progressive practices based on sound policy. Our State is fortunate to have someone of Richards caliber willing to serve in this capacity. Strongly urge his confirmation.

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**From:** [John Hu](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** support Richard Ha  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:52:33 AM

---

Dear Mr. Nishihara:

I support strongly the nomination of Mr. Richard Ha to the Board of Ag!

I have been working with Richard as a UHM faculty member for about 20 years. I respect him tremendously because of his vision, passion, and leadership!

Thanks a lot for your favorable consideration!

John

John Hu  
Professor  
Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawaii  
3190 Maile Way  
Room 310  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
USA

(808) 956-7281 Office  
(808) 956-2832 Fax  
[johnhu@hawaii.edu](mailto:johnhu@hawaii.edu)  
<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~johnhu>

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [guybward@gmail.com](mailto:guybward@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 11:26:12 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Guy Ward	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I grow macnuts on Hawaii. It is important that farmers be represented. I support the reappointment of Richard Ha to the ag board. Mahalo, Guy Ward Hilo

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**From:** [Kim Kozuma](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:42:16 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

I have had the privilege of working with Richard Ha when the Hawaii County Council was taking testimony for the Anti-GMO bill.

Mr. Ha is very informed on the science and technology, energy concerns, and the economics of farming for both the large scale and small producer. He personally does his research and due diligence to come to very insightful, accurate, and fresh solutions to farming challenges. He interacts and listens to all facets of our farming community, including the organic sector.

It would be an honor to select such a dedicated, informed, inclusive person on the Board of Agriculture. His balanced approach is much needed especially as challenges and controversy in our industry have been brought forth as of late.

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Kim N. Kozuma, DVM  
Owner/Manager 2 Girls Farm LLC  
Hilo HI

Kim Kozuma  
2269 Ainakahahele St.  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [John Gordines](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:44:24 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

John Gordines  
6722 Kawaihau Road  
Kapaa, HI 96746

**From:** [Raymond Tanouye](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:44:31 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,  
Raymond Tanouye  
President  
Mountain Meadows, Inc.

Raymond Tanouye  
163 Mamaki Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Mae Nakahata](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** support GM598: Richard Ha for Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:45:44 PM

---

I submitted a testimony earlier in strong support of Richard Ha's reappointment for the Board of Agriculture via the website. I have not received a confirmation so am resending this statement in case the prior is lost in space.

Please support the reconfirmation of Richard. Ha. Richard has a proven track record of his commitment to agriculture. He constantly investigates for possible impacts to our industry and tries to leap forward to identify implementing measures before the crisis occurs. We need people such as that on the Board rather than those with narrow interests or stale minds. Please support Richard for the Board of Ag.

Thank you.

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**From:** [Rhonda Russell](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:48:22 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Rhonda Russell  
44-2925 KALOPA RD  
HONOKAA, HI 96727

**From:** [Carolyn Unser](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:48:59 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Carolyn Unser  
61-732 Papailoa Rd  
Haleiwa, HI 96712



**From:** [Chuck Lasker](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:49:09 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Chuck Lasker  
4460 Ikena Place #54  
Kalaheo, HI 96741

**From:** [Stephanie Iona](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:53:09 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy. I can't even imagine anyone more qualified to represent the beautiful island of Hawaii that has his passion for Agriculture, and would be as qualified to serve.

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom, who works every day of his life creating sustainability for Hawaii.

I strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Stephanie Iona  
9857 Ape Road  
P.O. Box 1117  
Waimea, HI 96796

**From:** [Carol Gonsalves](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:56:00 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Dear Board,

We are extremely fortunate to have Richard Ha represent us. He's good and he's local!

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

I strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,  
Carol V. Gonsalves

Carol Gonsalves  
789 Hoolaulea Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture

Thursday, March 27, 2014; 2:50 pm

by  
J. Kenneth Grace

GM 598 Nominee RICHARD HA (SUPPORT)

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to express my strong support for confirmation of Richard Ha for another term on the Board of Agriculture.

My name is J. Kenneth Grace, and I am the Interim Associate Dean and Associate Director for Research in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawaii at Manoa. However, I am providing personal testimony today in support of Mr. Ha's confirmation under GM 598.

I can think of no better or more appropriate member of the Board of Agriculture than Richard Ha. Richard has 35 years of farming experience in Hawaii, under all conditions. He has grown bananas, hydroponic tomatoes, and numerous other crops, and is experienced in conventional and organic agriculture, and in such related areas as tissue culture for clean plant propagation.

Richard is an active supporter of agricultural research and education, and has collaborated in energy research on his farm (with the goal of a truly sustainable farming operation), and in research in the use of drones to monitor crop conditions. He has consistently spoken up for the need for society to support farming, and the rights of farmers to use the best tools available to them. Richard is currently CTAHR's representative on the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET), the national organization that represents agricultural stake-holder interests and supports the land-grant university system with USDA and other federal agencies. He is also active in professional and civil affairs in Hawaii, and serves on the Board for the Kohala Center, among other activities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this testimony in strong support of confirmation of Mr. Richard Ha under GM 598 for the Board of Agriculture.

**From:** [Robert Paull](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:56:06 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

I have known Richard Ha for more than 25 years and in this time he has never swayed from been a strong advocate for all types of agriculture in Hawaii. He is strongly committed to the role of agriculture as a crucial component of Hawaii's economy that provides safe and wholesome food and protect the environment.

Richard believes that decision should be based upon good evidence based science and not on belief and creating of fear.

The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

I strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Robert Paull  
Poola Street  
Honolulu  
Honolulu, HI 96821

**From:** [Wayne Nishijima](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:58:10 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Wayne Nishijima  
377 Huali Pl  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [RUSSELL KUWAYE](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:58:46 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

RUSSELL KUWAYE  
1989-B Komohana St  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [eric weinert](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:11:25 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Aloha,

I am Eric Weinert, current General Manager for Calavo Growers, inc - Hawaii Operations. We are the largest exporter of Hawaiian papaya to the US mainland. Like Richard I have farmed on the Big Island for over 30 years, started my own farming businesses and understand what it takes to make farming operations / businesses succeed in our State.

I support Richard Ha for a second term on the State board of Agriculture. I have had the pleasure of working with him on many occasions building our community. He has good judgement, a wealth of experience, and only the betterment of our community in his heart.

Mahalo,

eric weinert  
16-664 Milo St  
Keaau, HI 96749



**From:** [Dan Clegg](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:13:18 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Dan Clegg  
859  
Lahaina, HI 96761

**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Richard Ha  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 12:23:02 PM

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**From:** Susan [mailto:[butterflysh@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:butterflysh@hawaiiantel.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 11:49 AM  
**To:** [AGL@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:AGL@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**Subject:** Richard Ha

I support Richard Ha remaining on the Stete Ag board.  
He has proven hmself supportive of Agriculture in the State , and years of experience  
in the field  
Susan Hlcks

# First Long Term Study Released on Pigs, Cattle Who Eat GMO Soy and Corn Offers Frightening Results

*Pigs and cows fed on the rather common diet of GMO corn and soy have suffered digestive and reproductive disorders.*

As UK officials tout GMO foods as ‘safe’ compared to organic crops, results of a long-term, peer-reviewed study conducted by a group of scientists led by Dr Judy Carman of the Institute of Health and Environmental Research in Australia has been released – and it proves that GMO are anything but ‘safe.’

Livestock in the UK and around the world have been fed GMO for over two decades, since the USDA authorized the commercial sale of GMO soy and corn to feed not only animals, but human beings in 1996. Much of the meat raised on these GMO crop are sent overseas, to countries like the UK, elsewhere in Europe, and even to cattle-abundant nations like Australia. This most recent study proves that a more sober examination of the long term effects of GMO on our environment and health should be demanded of corporations like Monsanto, even as other evidence mounts that GMO crops are unhealthy, especially considering that nations trying to remove GMO from their food supply are still being devastated by its ill-effects.

A loophole in the European labeling laws insinuated on the EU Commission due to lobbying pressure from the giant US grain cartel—Bunge, ADM, Cargill have allowed huge exports of US-made GMO food into Europe. Under the current laws, anything over .9 percent GMO is required to be labeled.

In this particular study, pigs and cows fed on the rather common diet of GMO corn and soy have suffered digestive and reproductive disorders. This is of particular importance since the human digestive

tract is very similar to that of pigs.

Carman explains, “At a commercial piggery in the US, we took 168 just-weaned pigs and fed them a typical diet for the piggery, containing soy and corn, for 22.7 weeks (over 5 months) until the pigs were slaughtered at their usual slaughter age. Half of the pigs were fed widely-used varieties of GM soy and GM corn (the GM-fed group) for this whole period, and the other half of the pigs were fed an equivalent non-GM diet (the control group). The GM diet contained three GM genes and therefore three GM proteins. One protein made the plant resistant to a herbicide, and two proteins were insecticides.”

In short, this mixture of GMO foods led to a toxic mix in the digestive tract of the animals, leading to a reduced ability for GMO-fed pigs to reproduce. The pigs were studied from conception until slaughter (the first long term study of its kind) and all were all affected adversely. Female pigs were found to have the following possible pathologies, measured through careful analysis and post-mortem examination:

- Endometrial hyperplasia
- Carcinoma

*NationofChange is a 501(c)3 nonprofit funded directly by our readers. Please make a small donation to support our work.*

- Endometritis
- Endometriosis
- Adenomyosis
- Inflammation
- Thickening of the myometrium

- Larger presence of polyps
- Further, the uteri of the GMO-fed pigs were fluid filled compared to the pigs who weren't fed a GMO diet.
- The uteri of the pigs who consumed GMO food were 25% larger than non-GMO fed pigs.
- Inflammation of the stomach and small intestine
- Stomach ulcers
- Stomach inflammation
- Thinning of intestinal walls
- Increase in hemorrhaging bowels (this causes the pigs to bleed to death from the bowels).

Among these horrendous findings, scientists also noted that none of these types of results have been reported in the biochemistry tests performed by Monsanto or other companies in the GM industry.

The derisory politics behind the GMO subject are perpetuated through the UK Minster's praise of genetically altered foods. He has even said, in the face of these findings, that GMO offers, "most wonderful opportunities to improve human health." With scientific evidence like this provided by scientists who aren't funded by Monsanto and GMO corporations, the world has an opportunity to see just how malevolent these institutions are, who develop and disseminate these altered, health-killing crops.

References:

<http://worldtruth.tv/alarmed-new-study-of-monsanto-feed-on-pigs/>

<http://www.bangmfood.org/stealth-gmos>

<http://www.iher.org.au/content.php?pageID=3>

**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha"s Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:17:36 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Renee Kester [<mailto:Rkester1@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:17 PM  
To: All Senators  
Subject: I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Renee Kester  
4186 Upa Rd  
Koloa, HI 96756

**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha"s Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:17:42 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: silvia barber [<mailto:gianetti.barber@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:17 PM  
To: All Senators  
Subject: I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

silvia barber  
Au Street  
Waialua, HI 96791



**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha"s Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:22:38 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Eric Cho [<mailto:Cho2829@hawaii.edu>]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:22 PM  
To: All Senators  
Subject: I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Eric Cho  
64-733 mamalahoa hwy  
Kamuela, HI 96743

**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha"s Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:42:58 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Gene Lamkin [[mailto:gene\\_lamkin@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:gene_lamkin@hawaiiintel.net)]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:29 PM  
To: All Senators  
Subject: I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Gene Lamkin  
P.O. Box 1369  
16-1446 36th Avenue  
Keaau, HI 96749

**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha"s Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:43:09 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Judith Houle [<mailto:judith.r.houle@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:31 PM

To: All Senators

Subject: I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Judith Houle  
HCR 3 Box 10058  
Keaau, HI 96749

**From:** [Kim Kaaua-Bell](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#); [All Senators](#)  
**Subject:** Dept Of Ag Nomination  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:15:48 PM

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Aloha,

My name is Kim Kaaua-Bell, I reside in Hilo and currently employed as an Account Clerk. I am writing in support of Richard Ha's nomination to the Board Of Agriculture. Richard's extensive knowledge and insight has made him the right candidate for the Board. His ability to represent and support all sides of farming has gained him a huge following on the Big Island. His willingness to listen to others and look at facts is by far humbling.

Please elect him once again and he will prove to be a productive and successful member of the board.

Thank you for your time.

Testimony – Adolph Helm  
Homesteader  
P.O. Box 391, Hoolehua HI 96729

THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, March 27, 2014  
TIME: 2:50pm  
PLACE: Conference Room 229  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**GM 598** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD HA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and Fellow Committee Members

Mahalo, for allowing me an opportunity to submit testimony in support of Richard Ha's confirmation to the Board of Agriculture (BOA), State of Hawaii. My name is Adolph Helm a Homestead farmer from Molokai and business partner with a new start up organic mango farm operations. I am also currently the project leader for Mycogen Seeds Molokai an affiliate of Dow AgroSciences.

I had the fortunate opportunity to sit on a panel moderated by PBS Hawaii Island Insight a few years ago that included Mr. Richard Ha and others. The topic of discussion evolved around issues and challenges confronting agriculture producers in Hawaii. I was very impressed with Mr. Ha's depth of knowledge, insight and very thoughtful perspective on managing agriculture concerns in Hawaii. Mr. Ha clearly came across as having the best interest for all farmers in the state.

Not only is Mr. Ha an advocate for all farmers he is a legitimate and creditable source that is growing and producing food for the local market. The agriculture community in Hawaii would benefit tremendously with Mr. Ha serving on the BOA. I humbly ask for your consideration to confirm Mr.Ha to the BOA.

Much mahalo,  
Adolph Helm



March 25, 2014

Committee on Agriculture  
Governor's Message 598  
Chair: Senator Clarence Nishihara  
Vice Chair: Senator Ronald Kouichi

Chair Nishihara and Vice Chair Kouichi, my name is Joan Lee Husted. Thank you for permitting me to submit this testimony on behalf of Richard Ha.

I strongly support the reappointment of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture. I am aware of Richard's work in the agriculture field. He has a very impressive resume of activities on behalf of the agricultural industry.

I find him to be a thoughtful and well prepared advocate for agriculture. In his presentations to groups I am familiar with are carefully documented and straightforward. He respectfully listens to questions from the audience and gives thoughtful answers. The Richard Ha I know keeps an open mind in debates.

He will be a definite asset if he is confirmed to continue on the Board of Agriculture.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on Richard's behalf.

**From:** [Raymond Foster](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:20:52 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

As President and representative of the Molokai Farm Bureau, I personally know Richard Ha to have served honestly and dutifully on the HI Board of Agriculture. He is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. Richard always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is politically expedient...bringing positive solutions to complex problems faced by farmers today.

You will not find a more qualified or diligent candidate for the Board position. We of the Molokai Farm Bureau strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Raymond Foster  
1351 Maunaloa Hwy  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [douglasvincent@gmail.com](mailto:douglasvincent@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:24:53 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Douglas L. Vincent	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am submitting this testimony on March 25, 2014, the National Agriculture Day in the United States. I can think of no one better qualified to serve on Hawaii Board of Agriculture than Mr. Richard Ha. He is one of Hawaii's most innovative farmers. A leader across all aspects of agriculture. He will provide tremendous expertise to the Board of Agriculture. I strongly urge support of his nomination to the Board of Agriculture.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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March 25, 2014

Dear Senator Nishihara,

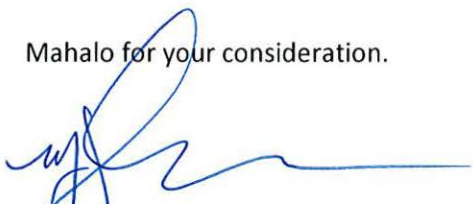
We would like to support Richard Ha's nomination by the Governor to the Board of Agriculture.

Richard is an exemplary candidate given his commitment and leadership in the industry, both as a farmer and as an innovator. He has 35 years of banana and hydroponic tomato farming experience. In addition, he has been very active in supporting and advocating for local agriculture, especially for Hawai'i's smaller farmers. He has successfully innovated over the years and has adapted his business to thrive in a difficult and rapidly changing industry.

Richard understands the nexus between food and energy and is looking for ways to make the farming industry more sustainable in Hawai'i, by reducing on-farm energy costs. He is tackling the problem both on his own farm, by developing his own hydroelectric system, and in the community, by supporting renewable energy projects on Hawai'i island.

Finally, we are very gratified that Richard is so eager to assist in the development of next generation leadership. We have frequently called upon him to share the story of his journey into entrepreneurship and rise to industry leadership with the fellows of our First Nations Futures Program. These emergent leaders benefit greatly by developing relationships with seasoned, yet humble servant leaders like Richard.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Neil Hannahs



Sydney Keliipuleble



Giorgio Caldarone



Pia Chock



Kaeo Duarte

**From:** [DAVID FELL](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:37:27 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

DAVID FELL  
2191 Ainalola Dr.  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Kyle barber](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:37:32 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Forget all the bullshit everybody is saying. This guy knows way more about Hawaii Agriculture than just about anybody and on top of that he seems to really care. It should be a no-brainer.

Kyle barber  
68172 Au st A4  
Waialua, HI 96791

**From:** [Gordon Vredenburg](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Richard Ha  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:42:20 PM

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I'm writing in support of Richard Ha to the State Ag Board. I've known Richard since the 8th grade. Although I now live on the mainland Hawaii is still home and I return on a regular basis. I visited Hamakua Farms and was very impressed with his operation. Richard is akamai and is always looking to the future. He understands the hardships of farming. He understands importing essentials from the mainland are expensive and we need to develop as much as we can locally. His use of solar and water power are impressive. He's willing to listen to both sides of an argument and relies on facts and scientific data.

Please support Richard.

Mahalo,  
Gordon Vredenburg  
3164 Stanford Lane  
El Dorado Hills, CA. 95762

**From:** [Maxelyn Corpuz](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:43:38 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Maxelyn Corpuz  
Young street  
Honolulu, HI 96814

**From:** [Robin Campaniano](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Statement in Support of Richard Ha  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:44:06 PM

---

Chair Clarence Nishihara  
Senate Agriculture Committee

Dear Mr Chairman,

Please accept these words in support of Richard Ha's nomination to the Board of Agriculture.

Richard Ha is an honorable man,. He has served our country as a U.S. Army officer. He has been a tireless advocate of local farmers, not only of the Island of Hawaii, but farmers throughout the state. Indeed, I believe he has done more to promote local food production than just about anyone else in Hawaii.

Richard is a tireless advocate who continuously works towards making Hawai'i a better place. Thus, his advocacy does not stop at farming issues. He has been an advocate for economic diversification and energy self sufficiency. He continuously attempts to boost the education of our keiki. His efforts have lead him to be recognized as a Distinguished Alumni of the University of Hawaii.

I believe Richard will continue to provide great service to the people of Hawaii as a member of the Board of Agriculture, and thus I humbly urge your favorable consideration of his nomination.

Mahalo,

Robin Campaniano

**From:** [Gordon Inouye](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:47:10 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,  
Gordon Inouye

Gordon Inouye  
PO Box 595  
PAPAIKOU, HI 96781



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [amstokes@hawaii.edu](mailto:amstokes@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:49:49 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. Ashley M. Stokes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT Mr. Ha! He is a very appropriate member for the Ag board and does an excellent job representing the interest and direction of sustainable agriculture in Hawaii. Please SUPPORT his appointment. Thank you for your time and consideration, Ashley Stokes

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [Vernon Inouye](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:57:50 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Vernon Inouye  
215 Paukaa Drive  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Laurie Yoshida](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:59:57 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Laurie Yoshida  
PO Box 3717  
Lihue, HI 96766

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [pennykelii@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pennykelii@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:05:58 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Penny Vredenburg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Richard Ha has brought and will continue to bring, reasonable, balanced thought and determination to the State Board of Agriculture in the most pono manner for all. He doe NOT have blinders on and thinks "outside the box" - He is what we need - please, do what we know is good, re-appoint Richard Ha. Most sincerely, Penny Keli'i-Vredenburg Hawai'i Island

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**From:** [David Pettinger](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:12:29 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

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He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

I strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,  
David Pettinger

David Pettinger  
255 Huali St. #505  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [hgphen@maui.net](mailto:hgphen@maui.net)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:14:45 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kenneth Findeisen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [Claude Kutaka](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:16:24 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Claude Kutaka  
45-896 Luana Place  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**From:** [Rhonda Stoltzfus](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:20:38 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Rhonda Stoltzfus  
53 Honuhula St  
Kihei, HI 96753



**From:** [Brian Cabreira](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:23:40 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

I've known Richard for the past 35 years, most of my life. We haven't always seen eye to eye, but he is always fair. He taught me to stand for the little guy, aka rubbah slippah guy. Like the farmers on the East side who can't make it to a counsel meeting in Kona to have a voice for something that should be on an election ballot for everyone to vote on. You may know him as a farmer and businessman. I know him as the man he didn't need to be, my stepfather. I've worked the farms with him and I know what it takes to survive as a farmer. There is no other person I know, who I would want as an advocate for farmers and the rest of us rubbah slippah folk. I truly believe in the statements below.

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Brian Cabreira  
427 Lama St.  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [joey.silva@cpsagu.com](mailto:joey.silva@cpsagu.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:25:32 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joey Silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ad-venture@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ad-venture@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:26:08 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Daniel S. Nakasone	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Richard is an innovator and willing the try new technologies to improve his farming operation. His farm is a model for other farmers in terms of efficiency and productivity. He also has the community at heart and is a strong voice for Hawaii agriculture and its viability.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [Jesse Stiefel](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:33:31 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Jesse Stiefel  
92-116 Palahia Pl  
Kapolei, HI 96707

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ashman.janet@gmail.com](mailto:ashman.janet@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:33:43 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have worked with farmers throughout Hawaii for 25 years. Richard Ha is one of these farmers, a very special one. To me, Richard is the embodiment of aloha. He is a kind and thoughtful man who has shown his dedication to both other farmers and the public by devoting his time and energy to find solutions to Hawaii's agricultural challenges. Rather than relax with the personal success of his own farm, Richard is always looking for ways to help others be successful farmers. He also concerns himself with the ability of consumers, all of us, to afford the cost of food grown in Hawaii. I hope you will support his confirmation to a second term on the Board of Agriculture. We are lucky he has once again volunteered to serve.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [Mark Wood](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:37:03 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board. His focus is truly on Agriculture and is open minded to all possible crop combinations. Organic to genetically engineered, he supports Ag.

I strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.  
Mahalo,

Mark Wood

Mark Wood  
95-1396 Lehiwa Drive  
Mililani, HI 96789

**From:** [Mario Gaggero](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 3:51:13 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,  
Mario Gaggero

Mario Gaggero  
129 Oluea Circle  
Kihei, HI 96753

**From:** [Brian Griffiths](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 4:15:16 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Brian Griffiths  
95-786 Wikao St. #M102  
Mililani, HI 96789



**From:** [Aurora Belle Esmaque](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 4:26:09 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,  
Aurora

Aurora Belle Esmaque  
350 Oe St.  
Kihei, HI 96753

**From:** [Tristan Esmaque](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 4:27:25 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

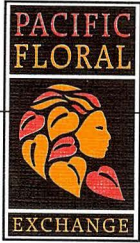
Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,  
Tristan

Tristan Esmaque  
350 Oe St.  
Kihei, HI 96753



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March 25, 2014

To: The State Senate Committee of Agriculture

Re: GM598 supporting the nomination of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture

Dear Sir(s),

I have known Richard Ha ever since we were in grade school many years ago. I am a floral exporter that directly employs more than 40 workers and market products produced by 80 additional independent farmers. I also own 3 nurseries that produces floral products for my business. I believe that I represent at least 120 families that are dependent on my business for employment or to support their agricultural activities. We were selected as one of First Hawaiian Bank's "Fastest 50" growing companies in Hawaii and earned the Governor's Exporter of the Year Award for fresh products from Hawaii several years ago.

Since Richard and I have been active in the field of agriculture, I have been fortunate to work with him on many agricultural activities throughout the years. He has displayed a sincere concern for farmers and people of Hawaii. He has proven himself as a successful farmer and businessman over the years. I wish we had more farmers that have Richard's credentials.

If I am not mistaken, the Board of Agriculture's function is to work in support of agriculture in Hawaii. It should not be used to further anyone's personal or political agenda. The farmers of Hawaii need to have someone on the Board of Agriculture that understands and supports the actual farmers and agricultural institutions of Hawaii. I fully support the nomination and confirmation of Richard to the board because he knows and understands many of the regulations and issues that most farmers face.

I support Richard Ha's nomination to the board and look forward to his speedy confirmation in the near future.

Sincerely,

Grayson Inouye

President - Pacific Floral Exchange, Inc.



Green Point Nurseries, Inc.  
www.greenpointnursery.com

Testimony for the Twenty Seventh Legislature, 2014  
State of Hawaii

**Thursday, March 27, 2014 2:50PM**  
**Conference Room 229**  
**State Capitol**  
**415 South Beretania Street**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD HA**

My name is Jon Tanouye and I work at Green Point Nurseries, Inc. on the Big Island. My family is in our third generation of agribusiness, a business that produces Hawaii's cut flowers and foliage and tropical blooming plants. Our products are distributed and exported locally, nationally, and internationally.

I would like to show my **Support** for the nomination of Richard Ha. There are many problems facing agriculture today and Richard Ha has shown he understands these problems and can be considered an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He is not afraid to speaking out on what is right to better shape the future of agriculture and the State of Hawaii.

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man who seeks to understand the problem and the solutions. He would serve the Board of Agriculture well being a representative of farming, agriculture and the community.

I urge you to **SUPPORT** the nomination of Richard Ha. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535, and email [jon@greenpointnursery.com](mailto:jon@greenpointnursery.com).

Mahalo,

Jon Tanouye  
Green Point Nurseries Inc.

**From:** [Robert Williams](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 4:30:43 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Robert Williams  
101 Hualalai Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [David Christopher](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Richard Ha to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture (GM 598)  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 4:33:21 PM

---

Dear Honorable Agricultural Committee Chair Nishihara:

I write in support of confirming Richard Ha to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture (GM 598). I am a UH professor specializing in plant biology. I used to work on a farm for 9 years growing up and in college to support myself. I know how hard it is to make a living in small farm agriculture. These days I spend too much time tinkering with test tubes and writing grants, and visit farms far less than I would like (mostly as an invited guest to develop collaborations). However, on one of these farm visits with USDA-extension agents, Richard Ha spoke eloquently about agriculture in Hawaii. I was greatly impressed with his commitment to raising food and implementing both new technology in combination with the older methods that still work.

Richard Ha has the unique combination of skills: He deeply understands the problems facing farmers and also understands the science behind genetics, plant and animal physiology, and modern horticultural practices. He realizes the importance of fighting pests, pathogens and other diseases, providing food security and safety, implementing sustainable production methods, diversified farming, producing bioenergy from crops and algae and farm waste and maintaining a competitive edge. He believes in the importance of agricultural education and involving younger generations in both the science and practical aspects of agriculture. He brings a balanced but factual viewpoint to the GMO debate.

As a scientist and an agricultural educator, I believe Richard Ha is the right man for the Board of Agriculture in our state.

David A. Christopher (Hawaii Kai)

Professor of Plant Biology and Department Chair

**From:** [ken ogawa](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 4:51:41 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,  
Ken T Ogawa

ken ogawa  
900 leilani street  
hilo, HI 96720



**From:** [Taylor Sumida](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 4:55:11 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Taylor Sumida  
1381 kikaha st  
hilo, HI 96720

**Russell S. Kokubun  
PO Box 357  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785**

March 25, 2014

Senate Agriculture Committee  
Hawaii State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii

SUBJECT: Governor's Message 598 Reappointing Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture,  
State of Hawaii

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee,

Richard Ha is a hard working and successful farmer who has served Hawaii extremely well as a member of the Board of Agriculture (BOA) for the past four years. He should be confirmed to a second term on the BOA where he can continue to be a thoughtful advocate for agriculture in Hawaii. His family farm, Hamakua Springs, is at the forefront in terms of demonstrating the practical application of 21<sup>st</sup> century cultivation practices such as greenhouse and hydroponic techniques, aquaponic technology, food safety practices and alternative energy utilization. Similarly, the innovative marketing of his farm's products has opened the door for many other farmers to realize its significance to the success of an agricultural enterprise. Essentially, Hamakua Springs is a working model for successful agriculture and Richard has always demonstrated his willingness to share his experience and knowledge with anyone who wishes to engage. Having known Richard for over 30 years and having served with him on the BOA, I can say unequivocally that he is an honorable person who has a deep commitment to Hawaii which is reflected in his dedication to the agricultural industry in our state. I have also observed that he works extremely well with the other members of the BOA to develop solid solutions for, at times, complex issues that demand extensive research and collaboration. His encouragement to new farmers who appear before the BOA for leases or loans is heartfelt and inspiring to them. The agricultural industry in all its aspects will continue to grow and thrive with Richard's leadership.

Please consider my strong support for Richard Ha in your deliberations. You can be confident that he will serve all of Hawaii well as a member of the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my view.

Russell S. Kokubun

**From:** [Chris McCormick](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#); [All Senators](#)  
**Cc:** [Richard Ha](#); [Chris McCormick](#); [Chris McCormick](#)  
**Subject:** Emphatic Support for Richard Ha  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 5:10:00 PM

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Dear Senators,

This note is to re-affirm Governor Abercrombie's prudent nomination of Richard Ha to continue to serve on the State of Hawai'i Board of Agriculture. While Richard has many positive attributes that make him an ideal candidate for the Board, the underlying character aspect of Richard's that I think is most important to focus on his integrity and intent to always "seek the truth" in order to find the best path for a community and society on whole to move forward in a complex global framework. He clearly has the ability to think global and act local.

I met Richard a few years ago when he was trying to neutrally assess the potential impact of geothermal energy on the big island of Hawai'i and the entire state. Richard flew to Iceland to meet with numerous experts in what is considered to be a global "center of excellence" for geothermal to understand IF what these experts were claiming would prove true in Hawai'i. He spent the time to observe, listen and learn before drawing his own conclusions, which he continues to advocate and act upon today. Having interacted with him through the course of that visit and being familiar with the manner in which governing boards should act in seeking multiple perspectives to form informed policy, I think Richard Ha is the ideal person for the Board of Agriculture. I would also suggest his resume of experience and years of successfully operating and evolving his farm on the big island makes him an obvious choice.

I would like to note that while I am a partner in a private equity group that invest globally in alternative energy/sustainability and which remains interested in the opportunity to develop a world class geothermal project on the big island, I have no historical or current business relationship with Richard Ha. I consider him to be a wonderful friend and an advocate of the democratic process of informed decision making. He's a role model to us all, including those who may not share his specific views on specific topics.

Governor Abercrombie should be commended for his nomination of Richard Ha to the Hawai'i State Board of Agriculture.

Regards,

Christopher McCormick  
Partner, Ambata Capital Partners  
Director, Reykjavik Geothermal

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**From:** [Steve Lupkes](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 5:15:39 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Steve Lupkes  
8272A Elepaio  
P.O. Box 811  
Kekaha, HI 96752

**From:** [Matthew Rose](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 5:35:51 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Matthew Rose  
45-601 Apapane Street  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**From:** [Robert Gandia](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 5:37:35 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Robert Gandia  
8342 Mahiko Pl, 96752  
Kekaha, HI 96752

**Timothy E. Johns  
5615 Poola Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821**

March 25, 2014

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
and Members  
Senate Agriculture Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUPPORT**

Subject: GM 598--Consideration and Confirmation of RICHARD HA,  
to the Board of Agriculture

Aloha Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to write this letter in strong support of the nomination of Mr. Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture.

I have known Mr. Ha for over 15 years and have had the opportunity to observe him in a wide variety of circumstances in the public, non-profit and private sectors. I first met Mr. Ha when I served on the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Board of Agriculture in the 1990s. Mr. Ha periodically appeared in front of those Boards on various issues of public concern, and I later worked together with him on community service organization projects and boards.

Mr. Ha is highly respected in our community, and for good reason. He possesses a tireless work ethic, unquestioned personal integrity, and a deep commitment to improving and sustaining our community. In his time on the Board of Agriculture he has been a strong voice for Hawaii's farmers and food security.

Mr. Ha's personality, skills, and extensive agricultural background make him the ideal candidate to help our State meet the numerous challenges we will face regarding agriculture, sustainability, and food security. I recommend Mr. Ha without reservation whatsoever. Please view his nomination favorably.

Very truly yours,

Timothy E. Johns



**From:** [Suzy and Geoff](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Richard Ha  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 5:59:19 PM

---

I firmly support the re-nomination of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture. In my 34 years on the Big Island I have seen much change in the field of agriculture from sugar as the main crop to eucalyptus trees, truck farming, expansion of coffee, tea farms, cacao, vanilla bean production to name a few. I have great respect for Richard Ha's success in the Big Island agriculture field. We need his "on the farm" knowledge, his vision for the future and most of all his ability to work with the farmers and the public in general through this period of change.

Aloha,  
Suzy Lauer  
135A Chong Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Stacie Sasagawa](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 6:02:16 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Stacie Sasagawa  
Na  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Mchughj001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Mchughj001@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 6:25:12 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John McHugh	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Having been in agriculture in Hawaii for 40 years it has been my pleasure to get to know Mr. Richard Ha. Richard is the consummate farmer. A man of vision who employs solid business practices and embraces technology to find ever more efficient ways to produce high quality food at affordable prices. There is no one who could better serve the interests of the agriculture community and industry in Hawaii than Richard Ha. I implore you to please approve Mr. Ha's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture for another term. Thank you.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mccalljeffreyw@gmail.com](mailto:mccalljeffreyw@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 6:36:27 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeffrey McCall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Richard Ha is a long time farmer and a great representative of Hawaii agriculture- very inovative and forward thinking.

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**From:** [Howard Hall](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 6:38:42 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,  
Howard Hall, Lalamilo Farm Lots #22A-1

Howard Hall  
65-1285 Puu Opelu Road  
Kamuela, HI 96743

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [HOELIKE@AOL.com](mailto:HOELIKE@AOL.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 6:46:05 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leningrad Elarionoff	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mr. Ha represents the common sense thinking of the majority of us who work for a living and are local to Hawaii and its culture.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [Holly Sumida](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 6:50:27 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Holly Sumida  
1381 kikaha st  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Luly Unemori](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7:18:28 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

I have personally met Richard Ha and wish more people were as passionate and intelligent as he is about advocating for ALL of Hawaii agriculture. His commitment and experience make him an excellent choice to serve the state on this board.

Please support Richard Ha's appointment to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo!

Luly Unemori  
530 Hiilei Place  
Wailuku, HI 96793



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [shay.chanhodges@gmail.com](mailto:shay.chanhodges@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7:28:51 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am very concerned about the use of pesticides in our communities -- and their effects. I am also concerned about GMOs in our foods. As a mother and active member in my community, I believe that the people serving on the Agricultural Board need to take those concerns and the health of our islands seriously. It is my understanding that Richard Ha is not one of those people. Food safety for our families is one of the most serious issues in our state currently. Please consider these concerns when making your decision.

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**From:** [Janelle Manuel](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7:52:29 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Janelle Manuel  
114 hokupaa street  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Eric Hillis](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7:56:52 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Eric Hillis  
Po box 191  
Kekaha, HI 96752

**From:** [Henk Rogers](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#); [All Senators](#)  
**Subject:** Richard Ha for Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:14:50 PM

---

To whom it may concern,

My name is Henk B. Rogers. I am writing with regards to the nomination of Richard Ha.

I believe Richard to be the right man for the job. He has all the necessary qualifications from extensive experience as a farmer to having the perfect character for the job. I read that Senator Ruderman has a “revulsion” to Richard’s nomination because of his stance on GMOs and Geothermal. I strongly disagree with Senator Ruderman who seems to be acting out of uninformed emotion.

Geothermal is one of Hawaii’s greatest clean energy assets. It is base-load which makes it the easiest to implement clean energy. People who oppose geothermal do so in complete ignorance of the damage done by existing oil/diesel fired power plants and the great track record of geothermal.

People who oppose GMOs are not thinking about the rise in population in the world and what that will mean. Our population is slated to reach 10 billion by the end of the century. We either grow food more efficiently through GMOs or we cut down the last of the rain-forests to make room for more ag-land. I don’t support Monsanto’s predatory business practices, so fix the business model. We need GMOs.

Richard is not afraid to take controversial positions on important issues. He is exactly the kind of man you need on the Board of Agriculture.

Aloha,  
Henk B. Rogers

**From:** [Brad Bengé](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:18:04 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Brad Bengé  
91-1101 Kaileolea dr  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

**From:** [Ella Manuel](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:53:48 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Ella Manuel  
151647 keaau paho rd  
Keaau, HI 96749

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [sarah.styan@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:sarah.styan@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:14:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [Richard Ha testimony 032514.pages](#)

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sarah Styan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Sarah Styan Hanapepe, HI 96716 GM 598: Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD HA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018. Senate Committee on Agriculture 27, March 2014 Conference Room 229 at 2:50 p.m. Position: SUPPORT appointment of Richard Ha to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, I support the nomination of Richard Ha to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture, as noted in the Governor's Message 598. Mr. Ha is an successful farmer who is also committed to his community and state. He has not only had success in his career, but also participates in many organizations and makes many contributions back to his industry and community. He understands farming in Hawaii and brings valuable experience and knowledge to the Board of Agriculture. His voice represents farmers and is an important perspective to have on the Board of Agriculture to ensure that the Board is supporting the needs of local farmers to be successful into the future. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting the appointment of Mr. Richard Ha.

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**From:** [Cristita Verna Subere](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:41:18 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Cristita Verna Subere  
1911 Kalakaua Ave., Apt 403  
Honolulu, HI 96815



**From:** [Joni Kamiya](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:43:16 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Aloha Senators,

If we are to grow our ag industry in Hawaii and keep the country country, we need people who can see the future of agriculture. That person is already on the board and should have his appointment continued. He is Richard Ha.

Richard is a great leader who has been willing to speak up for what is right and where the evidence leads us. He's not about linear problem solving and quick solutions. He is a very thoughtful collaborator and leader who stands up for the path we should follow. That is the kind of leader that we need in Hawaii.

He doesn't follow the latest trend or shy away from the real issues. He tackles it head on with tact and perseverance. He advocates for what is right for many and for those who are afraid to speak up. He is a great example to many and should be kept on the board to help direct Hawaii's future.

I strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Joni Kamiya  
Kaneohe, Hawaii

Joni Kamiya  
45-601 Apapane St.  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**From:** [Roberta Puakea](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:14:37 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Roberta Puakea  
P.o. Box 1180  
Kekaha, HI 96752

**From:** [Kris Cabreira](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:29:49 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Kris Cabreira  
427 Lama St.  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [David Matsuura](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 11:32:09 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

I have been a commercial farmer for over 25 years on the Big Island. For those of you that I had the pleasure of serving with in the Senate, know my passion for agriculture here in Hawaii.

I am a certified organic farmer and I served on the Organic Industry Advisory Group. I am very familiar with the current debate in regards to the opposition to Richard Ha's appointment and his stand on the GMO issue.

The greatest disaster that can hit Hawaii is when the boats and planes stop coming here. The real issue here is how we can help make Hawaii food self sufficient.

I know Richard personally and I can attest that he is one of the most qualified commercial farmer here in Hawaii.

Richard is a great farmer and knows the needs of the farming community. He is also a successful farmer and knows what needs to be done to help local farmers become successful.

Hawaii needs Richard Ha on the Board of Agriculture.

I strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

David Matsuura  
Hilo, HI

David Matsuura  
458 Ponahawai St.  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Terry McLean](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 11:53:59 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Terry McLean  
PO Box 1457  
Pahoa, HI 96778

**From:** [Karen Umehara](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 12:21:23 AM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Karen Umehara  
1865A Kino olé Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

Cindy Goldstein  
Aiea, 96701

GM 598: Relating to Nomination for Appointment, Board of Agriculture Chairman  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Thursday, March 27, 2014  
Conference Room 229 at 2:50 p.m.

**Position:** **Strong support** for appointment of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture.

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture,

I support the nomination of Richard Ha to represent Hawaii Island on the Hawaii Board of Agriculture, from the Governor's Message 598. Mr. Richard Ha has many years of experience as a farmer of diversified crops. He has been a leader and voice for agriculture and a strong supporter of local sustainable agriculture for many years. Mr. Ha has experienced the challenges of farming and understands the needs of the many small farmers across our state. Richard Ha has shown his dedication to farmers across the state by raising issues and looking for solutions that benefit not just his agriculture operations, but those with farms across the islands.

Please take into account all the positive contributions Mr. Richard Ha has made in considering his nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting the appointment of Mr. Richard Ha.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [sotb@rocketmail.com](mailto:sotb@rocketmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 4:23:46 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ian Gimple	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I do not support approving anyone to any boards or councils who is supportive of GMO and any of the GMO corporations. GMOs need to be prohibited from use forever.

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**From:** [Taylor Kellerman](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 6:02:20 AM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Aloha,

I ask that you support Richard Ha's nomination to the Board of Agriculture. He is a proven leader and has the hands on experience to make the right decisions. I am a 3rd generation resident of Hawaii and graduated from the Hawaii public school system and earned my degree from UH hilo in Tropical Agriculture. I have worked in Hawaii's agriculture industry for the past 13 years.

Thanku for your support

Taylor Kellerman  
44-550 Kaneohe Bay Drive  
94-520 Kunia Road  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**From:** [Sarah Sterling](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 6:43:32 AM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Sarah Sterling

Sarah Sterling  
84122 Mamoalii  
Waianae, HI 96792

**From:** [Derek Goto](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 7:20:03 AM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Derek Goto  
1835 Kihi st.  
Honolulu, HI 96821

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [whipmkealoha@aol.com](mailto:whipmkealoha@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 7:25:19 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kuulei Cooper-Springer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The purpose for this testimony is to relate our family's full support for Mr. Richard Ha in his nomination. I have known Mr. Ha for decades, and his contributions to our State and our people, are countless. His background and tenure, not only in the farming industry, but as an upstanding citizen of this State, and his dedication to the public good is more than admirable. Mr. Ha is an honorable man, with distinct qualities of morals, values and integrity. We are thankful for his nomination and appreciate your vote in favor of Mr. Ha's appointment. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Sincerely, Ku'u lei Kealoha Cooper, Trustee James K. and Miulan P.Y. Kealoha Estate

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**From:** [Randy Yokoyama](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 7:33:18 AM

---

Chair Nishihara,

I have know Richard Ha since he gave a lecture on agricultureand sustainable energy 5 years ago. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,  
Randy Yokoyama  
Ag Leadership Class XII  
P.O. Box 911  
Lawai, HI 96765  
rjyoko@gmail.com

Randy Yokoyama  
P.O. Box 911  
Lawai, HI 96765

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [judie@aloha.net](mailto:judie@aloha.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 7:38:59 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Judie Hoepfner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Mr. Ha has repeatedly attempted to block policies aimed at supporting small sustainable family farms in favor of multi-national unsustainable ag interest which have proven to put small farms out of business and worse. Mr. Ha simply is not an appropriate member for the Ag board and does not represent the interest and direction of sustainable agriculture in Hawaii. Please oppose his appointment. Thank you for your time and consideration."

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [Judi Steinman](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 7:41:24 AM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Judi Steinman  
PO Box 453  
Laupahoehoe, HI 96764

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jmattoshbp@aol.com](mailto:jmattoshbp@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 7:46:45 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jill J Mattos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Richard Ha has been very active in the self sustainability for our islands. He has contributed a great deal in farming, his knowledge has brought in farmers which knew nothing and made them successful. He would be a great asset on the Board of Agriculture. Richard is an outstanding business man!!!!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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D. Noelani Kalipi  
1155 Waialeale Place  
Hilo, HI 96720

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF RICHARD HA  
TO THE HAWAII BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

State of Hawaii  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Conference Room 229 State Capitol  
March 27, 2014  
2:50 PM

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

My name is Noelani Kalipi and I am submitting testimony in support of Richard Ha for reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

I have known and worked closely with Richard Ha for the past five years. For many years before I had the opportunity to work with Richard, I was aware of and impressed by his efforts to address food security issues in Hawaii.

Richard never stops learning; he never reaches the point where he believes he knows it all. He is always interested in learning more – whether it's science and technology, traditional customs and practices or new studies – he never fools himself into thinking he has all of the answers. This humbling quality and quest for the facts is precisely what makes him so effective in addressing Hawaii's energy and food security needs. He is a critical thinker with extensive knowledge and 35 years of experience in Agriculture, which makes him an incredible asset to the Board of Agriculture.

Richard is a champion of the 'rubbah slippah' folks – the grassroots mainstream population - who are the first to be adversely impacted by increases in prices for food or energy. He is not afraid to take a stand and to ask questions, even when there is popularity or momentum for the position he is questioning. He is the guy you want in the room to say "Hey, wait . . . let's examine this carefully."

Richard is open-minded and doesn't label or categorize people for their positions; he truly listens to them to better understand their views and how it relates to everyone else and the issues at hand. These are key qualities that we want in those who are willing to volunteer to serve on Boards and Commissions. I respectfully request that you support his nomination.

**From:** [THOMAS LEE](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 7:59:11 AM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

THOMAS LEE  
15-1266kahakaibld  
pahoa, HI 96778

**From:** [lynnbybay@aol.com](mailto:lynnbybay@aol.com)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Hawaii Board of Agriculture candidate  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 8:01:28 AM

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March 26, 2014

re: Hawai'i Board of Agriculture /candidate Richard Ha

I support Richard Ha's candidacy to serve on the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture. Mr. Ha is a farmer with 35 years experience who has worked tirelessly for the agricultural communities of this State. He recognizes the importance of agricultural and has spent his life learning about and working on the land. He is unshakeable in his desire to lead our State toward sustainability.

He sees food security as a priority and understands the connection of agriculture and energy. Lowering food cost for both the farmer and the customer is most important.

Richard Ha supports all farmers including the conventional, permaculture and organic farmers. He works well with people from all backgrounds. He is very capable and humble.... giving of himself. The State is fortunate to have such a qualified person willing to give his time and talents to his fellow citizens.

Mr Richard Ha is an outstanding candidate to continue serving on the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo,

Lynn Hamilton

Ka'u Hawai'i

808-928-0303

[LynnByBay@aol.com](mailto:LynnByBay@aol.com)

**From:** [Kirby Kester](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 8:04:55 AM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

I grew up farming and have been farming seed in Hawaii for nearly 20 years. I know without a doubt that Richard Ha is a great leader and advocate for agriculture.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Kirby Kester  
4186 Upa rd  
Koloa, HI 96756

**From:** [Marion Perlak](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 8:26:47 AM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Marion Perlak  
92-1346 Hunekai St  
Kapolei, HI 96707

**From:** [Sheryl Rawson](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 8:32:48 AM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Sheryl Rawson  
137 Kulana Kea Drive  
hilo, HI 96720

Carey M. Uchida  
138 Kaikuono Place  
Hilo, HI 96720

March 26, 2014

To Senator Nishihara, Agriculture Committee Chair and Hawaii State Senators:

I would like to address the re-nomination of Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture. As a senior citizen and life time resident of Hawai'i, my love for Hawai'i and its people is always looking out for the local population. Too many times, we locals, sit back and say or do nothing when we should speak up.

This is such a time when I can't stay silent. Mr. Richard Ha is the best person to continue to be on the Board of Agriculture. He has extensive experiences in agriculture for the past 35 years, the local environment, what small and large farmers want and need and has dedicated his life to better the agriculture aspect of Hawai'i.

He has been innovative in trying new methods of agriculture like hydroponics, uses hydroelectric powered energy and was the first banana farm in the world to be certified Eco okay. He was one of the top six in the country to receive the Patrick Madden, Sustainable Ag Research and Education (SARE) award.

He is just a local person who has stepped up and made farming better for the many small local farmers by trying new methods, being active in the agriculture and local community and is a man of integrity.

Richard Ha is whom we need to continue to represent the local farmers on the Board of Agriculture and I fully support his nomination. Please support his nomination. Mahalo!

Carey Uchida

**From:** [ELIZABETH HANSEN](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 8:56:51 AM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

ELIZABETH HANSEN  
31-370 OLD MAMALAHOA ROAD  
HAKALAU, HI 96710



Chair Nishihara and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify on:

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 598 FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RICHARD HA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2018.

My name is Maria Gallo, and I am Dean and Director of Research and Cooperative Extension in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am providing personal testimony today.

I strongly support Mr. Ha's nomination and reconfirmation to the Board of Agriculture (BOA). I currently sit on the BOA as an *ex officio* member, and have been serving in that capacity for over a year and a half. During this time, I have been able to witness, first-hand, how Mr. Ha performs on the BOA. He has an exceptional knowledge regarding agriculture in general, and agriculture as it is done in Hawaii, since he has been a successful producer of tomatoes and bananas for many years as founder and president of Hamakua Springs Country Farms in Hawaii County.

He understands the constraints that hinder farmers of all sizes and is keenly informed about issues regarding costs of energy, water and labor. He cares deeply about farmers and looks for ways and opportunities for them to be successful. He carefully scrutinizes and analyzes situations and comes to the table well-informed for decision making. Additionally, I have found him to be a man of character.

Based on the above, I strongly support Mr. Ha's nomination and reconfirmation to the Board of Agriculture. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [james.b.friday@gmail.com](mailto:james.b.friday@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 9:26:09 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James B Friday	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please vote to confirm Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture. I have worked in Hawaii agriculture for 24 years. Richard Ha is one of the most innovative people working in agriculture in our state. He has been a leader in developing local products and markets. He will be an outstanding asset to the Board. Sincerely, J. B. Friday, Hilo

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**From:** [Dennis Ida](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 9:28:32 AM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Dennis Ida  
80 Akea Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [melmacy@hotmail.com](mailto:melmacy@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 9:31:55 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melvin Macy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mr. Richard Ha has all the necessary experience to be a strong candidate for the Board of Agriculture. His forward thinking on farming and sustainability will be a great asset to the board.

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**From:** [June kaye](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 9:37:38 AM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

June kaye  
292298 Hanamalo Loop  
Hakalau, HI 96710

**From:** [Patricia Ferazzi](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 9:45:39 AM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Patricia Ferazzi  
28-338 Higa Rd  
P o box 894  
Pepeekeo, HI 96682

**From:** [Patrick Rich](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 9:46:57 AM

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Chair Nishihara,

I strongly support Richard's confirmation to the Board of Agriculture because he is a strong advocate for sustainability and understands the diverse challenges of farming being a farmer himself. I also support Richard due to his extensive resume of past experiences which will continue to bring the perspective of real farmers to the Board of Agriculture. It is also my belief that we need more people who are proponents of all types of agriculture to make a more balanced agricultural system for our State.

Please select Richard Ha  
Mahalo,

Patrick Rich  
51-362 Hauhele Rd.  
Kaaawa, HI 96730

**From:** [Vincent Kimura](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#); [All Senators](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Renomination of Richard Ha to the State Department of Agriculture board  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 9:50:38 AM

---

Aloha,

This note of SUPPORT is for the RENOMINATION of Richard Ha to the DOA board.

I have professional and personally known Richard Ha for 6 years now. In that time I have not only seen him as a positive steward of his large farm, but also as someone who deeply cares for other farmers and consumers of our locally grown food.

Richard has consistently gone above and beyond in ensuring farmers have a voice in our legislation and ensuring their agricultural practices are raised to a higher level of safety and security.

I cannot think of a better person than Richard to sit on the DOA board and would gladly personally voice this support in person, if necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like more details.

Best Regards,

Vincent Kimura  
808-291-2080



**From:** [Thomas Kaneshiro](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 10:00:05 AM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Thomas Kaneshiro  
17-190 Pa Papa  
Keaau, HI 96749

**From:** [Jethelyn Gregory](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 10:01:54 AM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Jethelyn Gregory  
15-115 Puni lapa st  
Pahoa, HI 96778

**From:** [Brian Corcoran](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 10:02:12 AM

---

Chair Nishihara,

I strongly support a highly qualified individual!

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Brian Corcoran  
66-429 Waialua Beach Road  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [susantai\\_7@yahoo.com](mailto:susantai_7@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 10:05:03 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Tai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I support Richard Ha's confirmation to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's Board. Richard has successfully represented Hawaii's agriculture on the HDOA's Board. This would be his second term promoting and protecting Hawaii agriculture and the people of Hawaii. He has contributed so much to supporting local agriculture, big and small. Please confirm Richard Ha's nomination to the HDOA Board. Mahalo, Susan Tai

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kat.fish@live.com](mailto:kat.fish@live.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 10:08:04 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathy Haskins	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support the re-appointment of Richard Ha to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture. He is a long time small farmer in the state having experience and knowledge about farming in Hawaii that significantly improves the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

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**From:** [Rodger Hansen](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 10:11:31 AM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Rodger Hansen  
Old Mamalahoa Hwy  
Hakalau, HI 96710

## COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 27, 2014  
2:50 pm  
Conference Room 229  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

### **Testimony in Support of Reappointment of Richard Ha To Board of Agriculture**

Submitted by:  
Donald Thomas

I am a member of the research faculty at the University of Hawaii and have conducted applied and basic research on Hawaii's geology, groundwater, and alternative energy for more than 40 years. I present the following testimony in support of Mr. Ha's reappointment to the Board of Agriculture.

I have many reasons for supporting Mr. Ha's candidacy and continuation in this position. First and foremost, he has demonstrated that he understands farming, literally, from the ground up: he is a successful farmer. He has, at least twice, started from bare land to develop a viable farm, producing quality products that had, and have, a significant impact on the local supply of those commodities. He understands the challenges of maintaining a successful farm – having seen an extremely successful banana farm be decimated by viral disease brought in by less responsible members of the banana industry on Hawaii Island.

He is practical, proactive, and pragmatic – when he sees a threat to the viability of the farming enterprise here in Hawaii, he looks for real, economically viable solutions to address those threats. He was among the first in Hawaii to recognize, and speak out, about the threats of escalating energy costs to the viability of the farming enterprise; he has been outspoken about our excessive dependence on oil and the threat that “peak oil” poses for Hawaii; he was one of the first to speak out about the economic challenges of a proposed reliance on biofuels as a replacement for conventional petroleum – and was able to put numbers on the costs of

production per unit of energy produced well before anyone pursuing “green energy” was willing to make that analysis.

He recognizes that farming is about more than sending commodities through the farm gate: it’s that, but it’s also food security for Hawaii when (not if) we suffer serious interruptions to our shipping infrastructure that we’re critically dependent upon. It’s also about access to fresh food that doesn’t have to be air-freighted in. And about jobs for local residents who haven’t had the inclination or economic resources for advanced education.

Mr. Ha has been an effective advocate for all beneficial farming pursuits in Hawaii and an effective spokesman in resisting what he, and many others, see as actions that pose a threat to the long-term viability of agriculture here in Hawaii. For his outspoken advocacy in support of the Hawaii’s farmers, he has drawn criticism and attack from an ideologically driven vocal minority who want to restrict the technologies available to Hawaii’s farmers. We need far more thoughtful, pragmatic, inclusive advocates like Mr. Ha serving our state, not fewer.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony.

This testimony reflects my views alone and is not an official statement of the University of Hawaii.



**From:** [Bob Chun](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Richard Ha Nomination to Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 10:28:24 AM

---

To: Senator Clarence Nishihara  
Chair, Hawaii State Senate Committee on Agriculture

RE: Reappointment of Richard Ha to State Board of Agriculture

Sir:

Please allow me to express my great support and endorsement of Mr. Ha's nomination for reappointment to the Board of Agriculture from the Big Island. I know of few other private citizens in the state who have given more to the betterment of our community and the future of our people than Richard, a humble, quiet, Hamakua farmer of astounding vision and foresight.

I first had the opportunity to work with Richard in pursuit of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) on Mauna Kea, which will be the most advanced, and expensive, instrument of its kind, not just on our planet - but in the universe.

Amidst the world-class scientists, researchers, technical experts, educators and financiers involved in the genesis this project, this Hilo native in his usual t-shirt and slippers stood out for his down-to-earth sensitivity and touch with the common folk who brought their hopes and fears to him because they trusted his integrity, judgment and bona fide commitment to a better place for all of us.

Since then he has continued to amaze me with the breadth and depth of his knowledge of sustainability, energy and resource management issues that will inevitably affect the quality of life for generations to come in Hawaii.

And he has done so with an inimitable grace so important in the relationship between our government and its people.

Richard's achievements and success as a small farmer, employer, innovator, mediator, volunteer, commentator, Viet Nam vet and family man bespeak the pathways of his understated lifetime, but it is the prescience of this man that is his rarest gift to all of us.

Please vote to return Mr. Richard Ha to the Board of Education. Mahalo for your attention and kindest regards.

Reginald Chun  
561 West Hind Drive  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821  
Telephone 373-3287

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [murchdc@yahoo.com](mailto:murchdc@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 10:29:42 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Murch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support the re-nomination fo Richard Ha for the HI Board of Agriculture. Mr. Ha has long history in agriculture and supports all kinds.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
To: [AGL Testimony](#)  
Cc: [djr@teamedeluz.com](mailto:djr@teamedeluz.com)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 10:30:52 AM

---

### **GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David S. De Luz, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: RE: Confirmation Hearing for the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture Board Dear Honorable Chair Nishihara & Committee Members: I/we STRONGLY SUPPORT Richard Ha's confirmation to the HDOA> Richard Ha has successfully represented Hawaii's agriculture on the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture Board, this is his second term promoting and protecting Hawaii agriculture and the people of Hawaii. He proudly served his Country as a US Army Captain in Viet Nam; majored in accounting at UH Manoa and he brings 35 years of farming experience to the table. He has farmed in 4 distinct growing regions on Hawaii Island and understands farming and its impacts from field to fork. As President of Hamakua Springs Country Farms a Six hundred acre fee simple banana and hydroponic tomato farm Richard understands beginning farming and the importance of protecting Hawaii's Food security. His farm is operated by 70 workers together with 5 family members, this growth did not occur overnight nor has it all been easy. He watched as his banana operation was decimated by the bunchy top virus despite using all available tools. He is a positive member of our community and a true agVocate, he understands all levels of agriculture and how important it is for Hawaii's future generation to be sustainable. His priorities include. Food security—Agriculture and Energy is inextricably intertwined. Keeping production costs low is of vital importance to farmers and their customers. In addition, Richard is a strong supporter of small farmers and the "rubbah slippah" folks, providing healthy, nutritious and affordable food is important for Hawaii. Scientific Method- Self adjusting and gives a solid foundation for future planning. I.e. less chance of fooling ourselves or making ourselves vulnerable; to unforeseen consequences. He is a current and active Board member for the following Boards; The Hawaii Board of Agriculture, Kohala Center, Hawaii Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB), Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) steering committee, Chair- Big Island Community Coalition and a Founding member of Hawaii Farmers & Ranchers United (HFRU). Richard's farming and Agriculture Milestones. • Traded chicken manure for banana keiki to start his first banana farm • Operated his own tissue culture lab • He was the first banana farm in the world to be certified Eco OK • To secures his ag sustainability, purchased 600 acres of land at Pepekeo to relocate his operations from leased land • Top six in the country for the Patrick Madden, Sustainable Ag Research & Education (SARE) award. • He started hydroponic tomato operation and

continues to strive using technology and proven science techniques/best practices to improve the quality of his crop • On of the first to initiate and be food Safety certified. • Attended first of five Association for the Study of Peak Oil (ASPO) conferences to better understand how this impacts the current and future of ag and ag farmers. Richard always reminds us of this key and simple philosophy: "farmers can make money, farmers will farm". • Installed 100KW hydroelectric generator • Has used unmanned aerial vehicles to monitor banana crop Richard truly IS the farmers advocate! He has demonstrated personally and professionally his commitment and has "put his money" ANS willing shared his talent to further the sustainability to show us the economics of how farming CAN WORK! Richard IS good for ag and I humbly ask you to please confirm him the HDOA BOA. Thank you for the opportunity allowing me to submit this testimony in support or Richard Ha. Respectfully Submitted by: David S. De Luz, Jr. Kukaiiau Ranch, LLC David S. De Luz, Sr. Enterprises, Inc. 811 Kanoelehua Ave Hilo, HI 96720 808-895-4284 email: djr@teamdeluz.com

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THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, March 27, 2014  
TIME: 2:50pm  
PLACE: Conference Room 229  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

GM 598  
Status &  
Testimony

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD HA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018. AGL

Aloha,

Since I'm a supporter of acting upon brining Food Security to Hawaii, I hereby submit my support of Mr. Richard Ha to serve on the State of Hawaii Board of Agriculture for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Mahalo,

Tetszuan Benny Ron, PhD  
Aquaculture Specialist  
1955 East-West Road  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [jane testa](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Nomination of Richard Ha to BOA  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 10:42:23 AM

---

Aloha Ag Committee Chair Senator Nishihara and Committee Members,

This letter is written on behalf of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Richard Ha to the State Board of Agriculture.

During my eight year tenure as the Hawaii County Director of Research and Development under Mayor Harry Kim (2000-2008), I found myself intrigued, interested, and impressed by the global yet locally grounded perspectives of Richard Ha as we served on various committees and met on a number of topical issues. We may not have agreed on every specific point, but I never questioned his credibility, his wisdom, nor his integrity. Richard Ha is a man of the highest moral character who is willing to stand for his truth while consistently encouraging opposing voices to come together for dialogue and compromise.

Part of our Department's purview was Agriculture, a huge and complex arena. Highly regarded and respected within the movers and shakers of Hawaii Island's agricultural community is Richard Ha. Somewhat of a Renaissance man, he is willing to challenge the status quo or popular majority if he has determined through data and scientific analysis that such a challenge is warranted and for the greater good. He does this knowing the cost to both his personal and professional reputation. And he has done so on both sides of the normal divide in agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture will be well served with such an objective, experienced, committed, and intelligent member on its Board.

Please support Richard Ha's nomination to the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo nui loa,

Jane Higa Testa  
24 Kaapuni Loop  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808)315-3399  
[janehigatesta@gmail.com](mailto:janehigatesta@gmail.com)

**From:** [Carolyn Blankfield](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 11:28:38 AM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Carolyn Blankfield  
24 Poni Moi Pl  
Hilo, HI 96720

**The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair**  
**Committee on Agriculture**  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**RE: GM598 Nomination of Richard Ha to the State Board of Agriculture**

Aloha Senator Nishihara and Members of the Agriculture Committee,

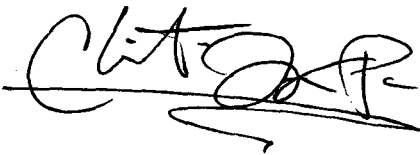
My name is Christian Pa, I am 24 years of age, a Realtor® serving the Puna District, living in Kea'au, on the Big Island of Hawaii, where I was born and raised. I am in STRONG support of the nomination of Richard Ha to another term on the State Board of Agriculture.

Richard Ha is an advocate for ALL forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has more than 35 years of farming experience, and he has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "right" versus what is "easy."

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

I STRONGLY urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo Nui!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Pa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Christian Pa  
PO Box 5908  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720



**From:** [tenaciousdna@gmail.com](mailto:tenaciousdna@gmail.com) on behalf of [Robert Rapier](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of Richard Ha Reappointment  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 11:55:12 AM

---

Honorable Chairman Nishihara,

My name is Robert Rapier. I am a chemical engineer by training, with a focus on energy issues and food security issues, both of which are intertwined. My work has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, Forbes, and the Washington Post, and I have appeared on 60 Minutes, The History Channel, and PBS to discuss energy issues. I have lived and worked on the Big Island for the past 5 years, during which time I have become well acquainted with Richard Ha.

Richard Ha is one of the most honorable men I have ever met, and his interests are in helping the people of Hawaii. Richard has described his position as neither pro nor anti-GMO, but rather pro-science. We need more critical thinkers like Richard to counter some of those whose knee-jerk reactions often lead to unwanted consequences.

Senator Ruderman should be ashamed of his comment at being "revulsed" at the idea of Richard being reappointed to the to the state Board of Agriculture. That sort of language hints at opposition that is based on a personal vendetta rather than on Richard's qualifications. I can think of nobody more qualified for this appointment than Richard, and I write today in strong support of his reappointment.

Sincerely,

**Robert Rapier**  
**Chief Technology Officer**  
**Merica International**  
**Kamuela, Hawaii 96743**  
**[808-769-1379](tel:808-769-1379) Cell**  
**[rapier@energytrendsinsider.com](mailto:rapier@energytrendsinsider.com)**

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kgma1956@gmail.com](mailto:kgma1956@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 11:58:03 AM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark H. Kijima	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support Richard Ha's nomination to the Board of Agriculture. He is a strong leader of Hawaii's agricultural industry. Hawaii's agricultural industry has been under attack by outside influences who have constantly presented bigoted, factually deficient hyperbole. We need a strong advocate serving on the Board of Agriculture to protect Hawaii's agriculture. Please support Richard Ha's nomination to the Board of Agriculture. Thank you. Mark H. Kijima Kula, Hawaii 96790

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [chris@ponoholo.com](mailto:chris@ponoholo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 12:13:22 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher English	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mr. Ha is a champion of sustainable agriculture in Hawaii. All of his endeavors focus on producing affordable food for all citizens of our state using natural resources and renewable energy as efficiently as possible. I strongly support his serving another term on the Board of Agriculture. Mahalo for the opportunity to support this fine candidate.

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**From:** [M. Patino](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 12:32:34 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

M Patino  
PO Box 10622  
HILO, HI 96721

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rkaiwi@hicoffeeco.com](mailto:rkaiwi@hicoffeeco.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 12:39:11 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roger Kaiwi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support Richard Ha. Roger Kaiwi

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [cacarlson1@me.com](mailto:cacarlson1@me.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 12:39:53 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carl A. Carlson Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Richard Ha is a State Treasure! Please confirm him.

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**From:** [Lester Doong](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 12:40:41 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Lester Doong  
94-870 Lumiauu St. G-105  
Waipahu, HI 96797

**From:** [Yvonne Kealoha](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 12:56:02 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

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He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Yvonne Kealoha  
2-3050 Kamualii Hwy  
P.O BOX 523  
Kalaheo, HI 96741



**From:** [George Pace](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 12:56:07 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

George Pace  
p o box 41  
11-3316 Plumeria St  
mountain view, HI 96771

**From:** [Liz Field](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 12:57:33 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Liz Field  
133 Puhili  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Lloyd Narimatsu](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 1:12:35 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Lloyd Narimatsu  
1222 Kihonua Place  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Dawn Pung](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 1:13:38 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Dawn Pung  
645 Ainako Avenue  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Yarrow Flower](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 1:21:50 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

I strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Yarrow Flower  
Hoene Street  
Makawao, HI 96768

March 26, 2014

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture  
Hawaii State Legislature, 27<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2014

SUBJECT:       Hearing Notice GM 598,  
                  Board of Agriculture Nominee, RICHARD HA

Senators Nishihara and Kouchi,

I respectfully submit this letter in strong support of the reappointment of Mr. Richard Ha to the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Ha faithfully served his country as a US Army Captain in Vietnam, and has extensive farming experience spanning 35 years in a wide range of conditions in the following areas:

- Waiakea Uka- rocky, thin soil, high rainfall
- Kapoho- rocky with volcanic cinder, medium rainfall
- Kea'au-- rocky, thin soil, medium/high rainfall
- Pepeekeo-- deep soil, high rainfall.

Mr. Ha is the President of Hamakua Springs Country Farms, a six hundred acre, fee-simple banana and hydroponic tomato farm. It is operated by 70 workers together with 5 family members. In that role he has displayed leadership and innovation in the following efforts:

- Traded chicken manure for banana keiki to start banana farm
- Operated his own tissue culture lab
- Created first banana farm in the world to be certified Ecologically-friendly
- Purchased 600 acres of land at Pepeekeo
- Top six in the country for the Patrick Madden, Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education (SARE) award.
- Started a hydroponic tomato operation
- Is Food Safety certified
- Attended first of five Association for the Study of Peak Oil (ASPO) conferences
- Installed a 100KW hydroelectric generator
- Pioneered use of unmanned aerial vehicles to monitor banana crop

Mr. Ha is also very actively involved in guiding and improving our community:

- Board of Agriculture, board member
- Kohala Center
- HIEDB

- Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI), steering committee
- Big Island Community Coalition, Chair
- HFRU, founding member

This strong background combined with a forward-thinking vision of food security, advocacy for all farmers (whether they be conventional, organic, permaculture, etc.), and a realistic recognition of cost impacts for farmers and customers alike lead me to urge you to confirm Mr. Ha for a new term to the Board of Agriculture.

Sincerely Yours,

David Akinaka  
Ferraro Choi and Associates, Ltd.

**From:** [Clarice Kaneshiro](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 1:30:47 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Clarice Kaneshiro  
121 Hoowaiwai Loop #801  
Wailuku, HI 96793



**From:** [Jean Monnier](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 1:30:53 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Jean Monnier  
29-371 Chin Chuck Road  
Hakalau, HI 96710

**From:** [Richard Peterson](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 1:37:59 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Richard Peterson  
92 Hoonanea St.  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Gail Crosthwaite](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 1:50:31 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Gail Crosthwaite  
27-664 Kaieie Road  
Papaikou, HI 96781

**From:** [Michael Maloney](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Richard Ha, Letter of Support, Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 2:13:40 PM

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Mr. Clarence K. Nishihara  
Agriculture committee chair

Mr. Nishihara,

This letter is to support Richard Ha for his appointment to the Board of Agriculture. I have been working with Richard for a number of years to implement the micro hydro power generation system on his farm. This type of energy development and other like it is important to help the farmers in Hawaii to offset the high cost of energy. From what I have seen Richard works hard to support the farming community in by following and addressing the important issues to the industry. I do believe he is watching out for the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Michael Maloney  
SOAR Technologies, Inc.  
Phone: (425) 861-8870  
Fax: (425) 882-7318  
Email: [mmaloney@soartechinc.com](mailto:mmaloney@soartechinc.com)  
[www.soartechinc.com](http://www.soartechinc.com)

**From:** [Bill Halterman](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 2:20:15 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Bill Halterman  
15-2764 Kaku St.  
Pahoa, HI 96778

# the leader project

leading from a Hawaiian place

March 26, 2014

Senator Clarence Nishihara  
Chairman Agriculture Committee  
Senatorial District 17  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 204  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Nomination of Richard Ha to the Hawai'i Agriculture Board

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my support of Richard Ha to the Hawai'i Agriculture Board. I know Richard Ha as a fellow member of the Social Science Association. I support his reappointment because he is an advocate for food security and greater sustainability in Hawai'i, a representative for small farmers, and an innovative entrepreneur who will continue to dream big, bring new ideas, and a real belief in the possibilities for a better future.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui  
Founder and Principal of The Leader Project

**From:** [Katie Schwind](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony supporting Richard Ha for the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 2:34:58 PM

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Aloha Senators and associates,

I have known and worked with Richard Ha for a few years, and one thing I believe everyone can agree on is that he always looks out farms and farmers. He himself has been a farmer for decades and has been highly successful maintaining a productive and profitable farm even amid increases in costs and fluctuations in the market.

I'm a young professional working with sustainability and rural communities. As is common among my generation, I myself have substantial quandaries with GMOs, in particular around the misuse of patent infringement laws intimidating and suing farmers over uncontrollable and unintentional cross pollination, among other things, as can be seen in the following report by the Center for Food Safety <http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/reports/1780/monsanto-vs-us-farmers-2012-update#>

Though I do not support many of the corporations and policies around GMO, I do support the farmers right to choose their own crops and pursue a variety of options for their business in balance with the community's well-being. Most importantly, With a rising population, we need more solutions for feeding. Richard Ha takes a balanced approach to the issue of GMOs, understanding both the farm and farm business side of the issue as well as the greater implications to our communities. Richard Ha cares deeply about his community and his workers as can be seen in the changes to his own practices, and his unique and direct support to his workers.

The question of his qualifications should not be if he is for or against GMOs, but does he approach this issue in a balanced and logical way. He does that far more than most. There is a myriad of information and misinformation around GMOs, and it is crucial to have someone on the Board of Ag who is open to hearing all sides of all issues.

The Board of Ag should be supportive of new advancements and technologies that support farmers and benefit our communities, but it should be rigorous in its unbiased assessment of these new opportunities for farms. Richard Ha has always and will continue to advocate for the well being of farmers and Hawaii, and will do so in an open minded manner. That is why I do, and you should, support his nomination to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo for your time,

Katie Schwind

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [stancypriano@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:stancypriano@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 2:35:15 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stan Cypriano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD HA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [Marlene Hawthorne](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 2:35:18 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Marlene Hawthorne  
4564 Ehako St  
Kalaheo, HI 9674s1

**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: In Support of Richard Ha Nomination for Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 8:06:19 AM

---

**From:** Stuart Nakamoto [mailto:[snakamo@hawaii.edu](mailto:snakamo@hawaii.edu)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014 12:57 PM  
**To:** [AGL@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:AGL@capitol.hawaii.gov); All Senators  
**Cc:** Richard Ha  
**Subject:** In Support of Richard Ha Nomination for Board of Agriculture

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Stuart Nakamoto. I am an Extension Economist with the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and am part of the Risk Management Hawaii/LIFE team. The statements in this message are my own and do not represent the UH nor CTAHR.

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Richard Ha to a second term on the Hawaii State Board of Agriculture.

Richard brings a practical, common sense perspective to the table, as is reflected in his saying "If the farmers make money, the farmers will farm." He represents the silent majority among producers, and his credentials as a farmer are beyond question. We need that kind of representation for agriculture to be a vibrant part of the state and especially if Hawaii is to be self sustainable.

I strongly recommend that Richard Ha be re-appointed.

Respectfully,

Stuart T. Nakamoto

Stuart T. Nakamoto, Ph.D.  
Professor and Extension Economist  
Agricultural Economics and  
Marketing of Perishable Products

*Phone:* [\(808\) 956-8125](tel:(808)956-8125)  
*Fax:* [\(808\) 956-4883](tel:(808)956-4883) or 956-4024  
*Email:* [snakamo@hawaii.edu](mailto:snakamo@hawaii.edu)

University of Hawaii at Manoa  
[College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources](#)  
Dept. of Human Nutrition, Food, and Animal Sciences  
Agricultural Sciences Bldg 314B

*mailing address:*  
UH-CTAHR HNFAS  
1955 East-West Road, AgSci 314B  
Honolulu, HI 96822

[SENS@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:SENS@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senators  
State of Hawaii

**Re: Supporting Testimony for Richard Ha**

Dear Senators:

My name is Joe Ferraro. I am a registered architect in the State of Hawaii and an advocate for sustainable design including food production. I have known Richard Ha since 2008 when we were both honored into the Hawaii Business Hall of Fame and were presented certificates from both the House and Senate. Since that time I have kept in touch with Richard in the sustainable design circles and have held a high regard for his ethics and professionalism. He has always spoken for the best use of Hawaii's lands for sustainable crop yields in an effort to make our state independent of imported food.

I wholeheartedly offer my support and encouragement for his confirmation to the Board of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for your consideration and confirmation.

Aloha,



Joe Ferraro, FAIA, LEED AP  
Principal

**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Richard Ha  
**Date:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 8:10:44 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Ronald Koehler [<mailto:rakice@hawaii.rr.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 7:59 AM  
To: All Senators  
Subject: Support for Richard Ha

Aloha -

I am Ron Koehler, a Big Island resident and State of Hawaii voter since 1969. I am a retired manager of the Mauna Kea Observatories Support Services.

I am writing this in support of Richard Ha's reappointment to the State Department of Agriculture Board.

I believe that Richard Ha is one of the most honest and rational thinkers in our community. He is a bit outspoken about his opinions, and will ruffle some feathers, but you always know where he is coming from and he speaks from the heart.

His input to the State Department of Agriculture Board is important for the Big Island and for the State to make decisions that will reduce our dependence on outside food and energy sources.

Thank you, Ron Koehler

Aloha Senator,

March 26, 2014

I am Vince Dodge, a small business owner and part-time farmer in Wai`anae, O`ahu. Am writing to you because Richard Ha has been nominated to be re-appointed to the Hawaii Board of Agriculture (BOA). and he simply does not represent the local agriculture community in Hawaii. He has repeatedly attempted to block policies aimed at supporting small sustainable family farms in favor of multi-national unsustainable ag interest which have proven to put small farms out of business and worse. Please oppose his appointment.

Scott Enright, is now Chair of the BOA and he does a great job of representing the large, multi-national ag interests. As an island community, small farms and businesses are the backbone of our economy, and present and future sustainability and food security.

We need more representation of small, `aina friendly farmers on the BOA. The BOA at the very least must be balanced toward small sustainable farms- our island well-being depends on it.

Please oppose the appointment of Mr. Ha to the BOA.

aloha nui,

Vincent Kana`i Dodge

**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Ag and Richard Ha  
**Date:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 8:13:11 AM

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**From:** James Brewbaker [mailto:[brewbake@hawaii.edu](mailto:brewbake@hawaii.edu)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:31 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clarence Nishihara  
**Subject:** Ag and Richard Ha

Senator Nishihara, my compliments to you on handling the ag committee (and occasionally "condolences" on our problems with bugs, diseases, goats, people)

Son Paul reminds me of your work on the committee, and we both appreciate your leadership and wish to help where possible. I'd add my vote for Richard Ha...

I've been on UH Tropical Ag faculty since '61 as a plant breeder...started our seed industry in '66 on Molokai, have great respect for our seedsmen, but wish they'd kick in more \$\$ to help us in research, teaching, extension.

I'm fulltime at my research building on Waimanalo Res. Sta., and you're always welcome. Some good "HiThai" sweetcorn due in 3 weeks.

Respectfully, Jim Brewbaker

**From:** [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#)  
**To:** [nishihara1 - Amanda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha"s Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 8:13:46 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Cristita Verna Subere [<mailto:cristita.verna.q.subere@monsanto.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:41 PM  
To: All Senators  
Subject: I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Cristita Verna Subere  
1911 Kalakaua Ave., Apt 403  
Honolulu, HI 96815





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Designed with [WiseStamp - Get yours](#) |

**From:** [Gene Lamkin](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:35:54 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Gene Lamkin  
P.O. Box 1369  
16-1446 36th Avenue  
Keaau, HI 96749

**From:** [RICHARD SCHNITZLER](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:35:50 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

RICHARD SCHNITZLER  
P.O. Box 44715  
Maluokalani ST.  
Kawaihae, HI 96743

**From:** [Judith Houle](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:31:17 PM

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Chair Nishihara,

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He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Judith Houle  
HCR 3 Box 10058  
Keaau, HI 96749

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dkakiona@aol.com](mailto:dkakiona@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:23:21 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deron Akiona	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kouchi members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, I am Deron Akiona testifying today in strong support of Mr Richard Ha's appointment to the Board of Agriculture. Richard is more than qualified to be a contributing member of the Board of Agriculture. His ability to review information and his lifetime of experience in Hawaii's agriculture community will continue to serve all the people of Hawaii. Basically you can trust Richard to be prepared for issues that will be reviewed by the commission. Richard Ha does his homework, he listens and respects contrary views. He may question but it is with respect and with the goal of getting the best information possible. Mr Richard Ha a friend I trust and I feel fortunate that he is a citizen of Hawaii and a son of Moku o Keawe, Hawaii Island. I humbly request your support for his nomination. Aloha, Deron Akiona

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [Eric Cho](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:22:13 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

Richard Ha is an advocate for all forms of agriculture and sustainable energy in Hawai'i. He has a deep understanding of how agriculture is tied to our communities and our way of life. He always seeks to do what is "Right" versus what is easy...

He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Eric Cho  
64-733 mamalahoa hwy  
Kamuela, HI 96743

**From:** [Renee Kester](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:17:24 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

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He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

Renee Kester  
4186 Upa Rd  
Koloa, HI 96756

**From:** [silvia barber](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I, Strongly Support GM 598 ~ Richard Ha's Confirmation to the Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:17:23 PM

---

Chair Nishihara,

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He has consistently advocated for positive solutions that benefit the majority. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. The Board of Agriculture could not have a better advocate or ambassador of agriculture serving on its Board.

We strongly urge the committee to approve Mr. Ha's appointment to the Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo,

silvia barber  
Au Street  
Waialua, HI 96791



**From:** [Kai](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#); [All Senators](#)  
**Subject:** Richard Ha Re-nomination  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:10:09 PM

---

Dear Nominating committee and State Senators,

My name is Kailani Kala and I am a resident of Puna Hawaii for 28 years. I am a registered voter and an Accounts Receivable clerk at Panaewa Distribution Center. As a consumer, I am interested in local products and sustainability. I believe Richard Ha will support my views and I would like to support his re-nomination as a member for the Board of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Kailani Kala

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [bcraven@lanihau.net](mailto:bcraven@lanihau.net)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:06:07 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
britt craven	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [Mark Crowell](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Nomination of Richard Ha to State Board of Agriculture  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:04:34 PM

---

Dear Senator Nishihara,

My name is Mark Crowell.

I am a graduate of UH College of Tropical Agriculture in Hilo.

For 26 years I have been a sales representative for BEI Hawaii (formerly Brewer Chemical, Brewer Environmental industries, BEI)

I have known Richard Ha for the entire 26 years I've been at BEI Hawaii.

I believe he is an excellent choice for our Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Richard is a strong advocate for farming in Hawaii.

Thank you,

-mc-

**From:** [Kelli](#)  
**To:** [All Senators](#); [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Richard Ha Nomination to Board of Ag  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 12:42:56 PM

---

Aloha Nominating Committee and State Senators:

My name is Kelli Ragual. I am a resident of Pepe'ekeo, Hawaii and am employed as an Accounts Payable Clerk.

As a community member of Pepe'ekeo, Hawaii, I support the views and visions of Mr. Richard Ha for a sustainable Hawai'i and recommend that he be re-nominated as a member of the Board of Agriculture.

Mahalo,  
Kelli Ragual  
kragual@aol.com  
P.O. Box 968  
Pepe'ekeo, HI 96783

**From:** [Mark Wright](#)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Richard Ha  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 12:29:42 PM

---

Dear Chair Nishihara

I am writing to support Richard Ha's nomination to the Board of Agriculture. I have known and worked (as a UH research entomologist) in collaboration with Richard Ha since 2002, conducting research on pests of bananas on his farms. Richard is one of the most diligent and environmentally aware farmers I have ever dealt with over the years, in many places in the world. He has, on his own initiative, engaged in numerous progressive farming innovations. Richard has engaged in numerous sustainable agriculture practices and has been recognized nationally, by the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension program for example, for his efforts. He has a keen appreciation for the role of good science and economics in moving agriculture forward. I was impressed that Richard was Eco OK certified, and he was one of the early-adopters of this type of certification.

Richard has always shown a commitment to best practice farming, the environment, and society, and I believe he is an excellent candidate for the Hawaii Board of Agriculture.

Yours sincerely,  
Mark

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [nalofarms@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:nalofarms@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 12:21:11 PM

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**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dean J. Okimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Richard Ha, has been one of the foremost leaders in the agricultural industry. I am Dean Okimoto of Nalo Farms, and I have the utmost respect for Richard not only being one of the best farmers in this state, but also an innovator of new ideas in the agricultural industry. He has a passion for agriculture and is always willing to help move the industry forward. he is an excellent choice to serve on the Agricultural Development Corp., and is a true asset to not only this organization, but to agriculture in general.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [castanha@hawaii.edu](mailto:castanha@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM598 on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 11:57:58 AM

---

**GM598**

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for AGL on Mar 27, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. Tony Castanha	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose the nomination of Richard Ha. We do not need any more GMO advocates sitting on this board. Mahalo.

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